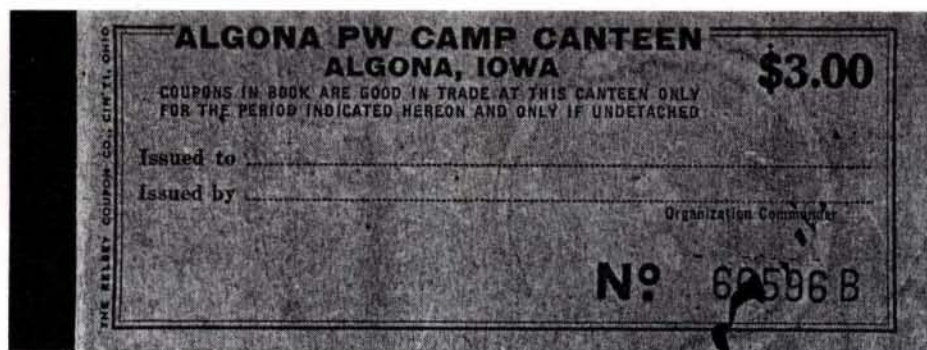


# *International Bank Note Society Journal*



**The Prisoner of War Camp at Algona, Iowa:  
A Look at the Camp and its Monetary System...p. 9**

**Volume 32, No. 1, 1993**



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The *I.B.N.S. Journal* is published quarterly by the International Bank Note Society, a non-profit educational society, and is distributed free of charge to its members. Founded in 1961, the Society now has a membership of approximately 2100, with representation in over 80 countries.

#### MEMBERSHIP DUES & FEES

The current annual dues, in U. S. Dollars and U. K. pounds, are:

Regular membership	\$17.50	£10.00
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Changes of address may be sent to the general secretary, Milan Alusic (address next page).

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## I.B.N.S. Journal

Volume 32, No. 1, 1993

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## President's Message

There is, I am told, an ancient Spanish curse that translates roughly as "May you live in interesting times!" Well, it would seem that these are indeed "interesting times." For all too many people, though, it is much more than just "interesting." Rather, it is a horribly tragic time in their lives. They must endure and, if they are lucky, survive the tumultuous events that seem to be the inevitable realities of birth and early growth of all the new states. Yes, it does not seem to take long for the euphoria of independence to be replaced with the hard unpleasantness of survival in a world which is all too often decidedly unfriendly, if not outright merciless. Wouldn't it be nice if people could sit around the table and share words and bread, and settle their differences with talk and cooperation, instead of exchanging hatred and using bullets and terror to resolve their disagreements. Wouldn't it be a much nicer world if more people collected and exchanged bank notes, rather than collecting guns and exchanging bullets? But then human nature being what it is, perhaps this is too much to hope for.

With this multitude of new countries born since the Berlin Wall came tumbling down, what an exciting time it is to be collecting world bank notes! Now I'm sure there will be a few out there who will hasten to correct me on this. Many of the "new" states aren't new at all, but like Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania are really quite "old" and have recently regained their lost-but-not-forgotten independence. In the Balkans we find a geography, and unfortunately problems, reminiscent of the halcyon days before July, 1914. Whatever the details, all will agree that today we have substantially more bank note-issuing entities than we did two years ago, and this fact in and of itself creates a veritable treasure-trove for collectors. Thematic collections entitled "issues after the fall of the Wall" or "notes of the breakup of the Soviet Empire" would provide enough room to keep a collector busy for ages.

*continued on page 32*



## Editor's Column

This quarter's column is about a numismatic adventure. A few years back I picked up some POW scrip from WWII used in American camps primarily by Germans. Among the coupons were a few from Algona, Iowa. Then last fall I purchased more coupons which really whetted my appetite about them. It had been weighing on my mind for some time to drive the two hundred miles or so from my home near Cedar Rapids to Algona. Finally, last December, I made the day trip. Thus began a wonderful time. I called in advance to Mr. Wes Bartlett who was recommended to me by the Iowa State Historical Society. He arranged to have the usually-closed-at-this time-of-year Kossuth County Museum opened for me. In there, with the strong smell of old days in the air, was a treasure chest of original information on the Algona POW Camp. Documents from the commandant, uniforms, original plans for the construction of the camp, artifacts and much more were shown to me. After writing all I could in a few hours (there being no Xerox machine nor the ability to remove several of the exhibits since they were mounted in glass frames), I drove a short distance to see the Algona Nativity Scene which is the main relic of the camp. This was constructed by a group of POWs and paid for out of their camp earnings! Finally, I drove out to the camp site itself, now an airfield at the edge of the town, where I paused to take a few photographs.

The real breakthrough came after I called Dr. George Lobdell, nephew of the Algona Camp Commandant Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Lobdell, in Arizona. Wes Bartlett had told me that Professor Lobdell was writing a book on the Algona Camp and had many documents from his uncle, now deceased. This source of information has proven to be invaluable. Especially valuable were details from a speech given in 1946 and the description of an original booklet of scrip kept by the commandant. I also was given several original propaganda leaflets made by the POWs in the camp as well as photos!

Indeed, it was through the generous help of my new numismatic friends that the article you will find in this issue was able to come into existence. I hope you enjoy reading it as I have enjoyed writing it.

I look forward to hearing and reading in these pages about your adventures with bank notes!

*Best Regards,  
Steve Feller, Editor*

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## P.M. Smythe result

Over \$290,000 was realized in R.M. Smythe & Co.'s fall currency auction Nov. 22, 1991, and in the Dec. 12, 1991, mail-bid-only portion, Bruce R. Hagen, spokesman, said.

Prices realized do not include a 10 percent buyer's premium.

Featured in both catalogs was among the finest offerings of Louisiana Parishal or Parish scrip notes ever sold at auction, Hagen said. The two

A Parish of Union \$10 more sold  
for \$2,000 at a recently concluded  
H. M. Smith & Co auction.

The Louisiana Parish notes commenced at lot 10 with four entries from the Parish of Assumption, commencing with the 20-cent denomination (the only known 20-cent type denomination Parish note), which sold for \$550.

After over 50 lots of strong prices for Bienville, Bossier and Caddo parishes, Hagen said the first four-figure price was reached for a Parish of Calcasieu

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3



## Letters to the Editor

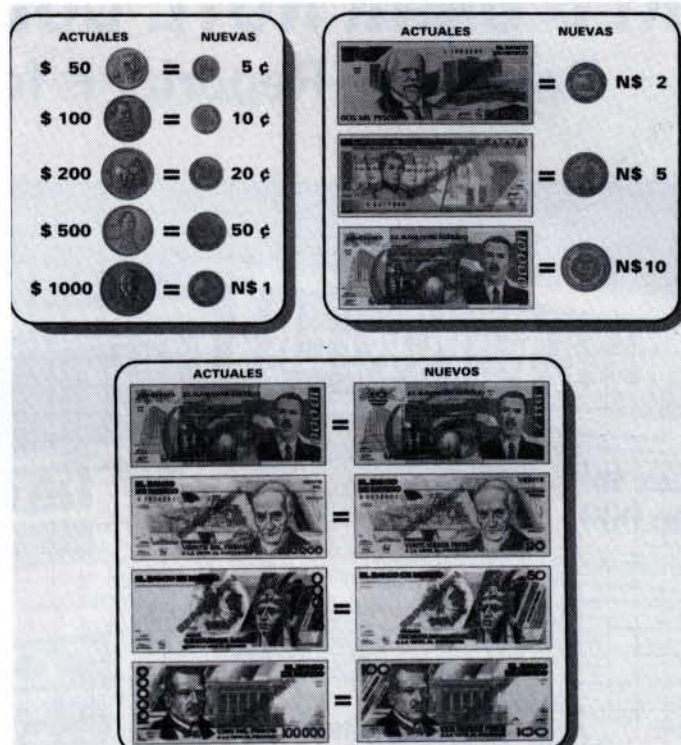
### Dear Editor,

Please find enclosed two brochures that explain by themselves what will happen to Mexican notes and coins as of the first of January 1993, and during the year after, in which a new type of notes is going to be introduced to the system, without the "NUEVO" word attached to it and only leaving the "PESO" word alone.

Of course the reason for this to be implemented is that we have had an inflation of approximately 3,500% since 1972, but our government has been able to curb our yearly inflation rate to less than 10%, so this will allow us to use "normal" money again.

This might be of interest to our fellow collectors.

Harold G. Colin, I.B.N.S. #4403  
Ma. Azuela 28. Novelistas  
Satelile. 53100 Edo. Mex.  
Mexico



New paper currency and coins issued in Mexico

### The New Peso

Dec. 31, 1992

PESO

Jan. 1, 1993

NUEVO PESO

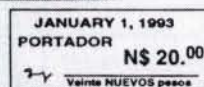
#### 1) PRICES



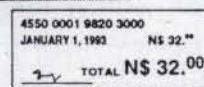
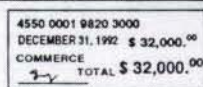
#### 2) Currency



#### 3) Checks



#### 4) Credit Cards



#### 5) Rounding Off

\$ 15,370.00

\$ 15,380.00

N\$ 15.35

N\$ 15.40

\$ = pesos

N\$ = NUEVOS PESOS

SOURCE: Banco de Mexico

Conversion of  
Mexican peso to  
Nuevo peso

### Dear Editor,

My name is Josef Truyol and I am from Switzerland. Some years ago I read in Volume 28, No. 3 and 4, 1989, a very interesting article about the South African Boer war by Dr. Harold Levius. My question is I have a ZAR Pretoria Issue, Pick A54, 5£ variety c (no prefix) with rosette ruling, but with a rectangular overstamp:

Captured Annas Cancel'd  
11. Jul. 1901  
D.M.I AHd. Org.

on the face of the bank note at the left corner. Can somebody help me to know more about this?

Thank you very much.

Yours faithfully.

J. Truyol, I.B.N.S. #5041  
Wassbergsh 41  
CH-8127Forch  
Zurich, Switzerland



## Dear Editor,

Hopefully you can find use for the following information.

Two new military-related notes have been uncovered. Both are from Camp Drake, Japan, and are printed (mimeographed?) on the back of map stock in yellow ink. While the value of each is not clear (cents?) the notes are in the denominations of 5 and 10.

Dated 1949, the "Cavalry Cash" or "Drake Dough" is signed by W.E. Cheatham. Some notes are counter-stamped on the back in blue ink, "G.W. Smith; Capt AGC; Secretary."

It is unknown at this time whether or not other denominations exist.

Additionally, while recently in San Antonio, Texas, I was given a copy of an *I.B.N.S. Journal* story (Vol. 23, #2) by Marshall Clark concerning Japtan Island scrip. The article talks

about and shows scrip in the denominations of 5, 10, 25, and 50 cents. The person who showed me this article then proceeded to show me uncirculated copies of each note, and then pulled out an uncirculated \$1.00 note!

Copies of some of those items are included.

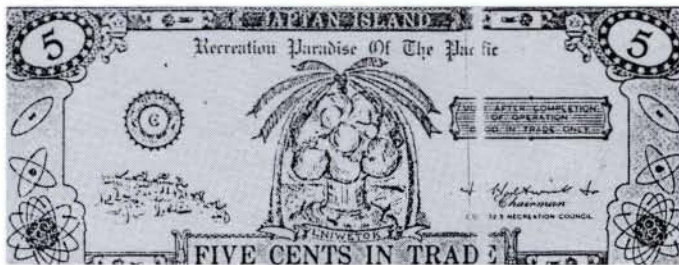
Sincerely,

John K. Kallman

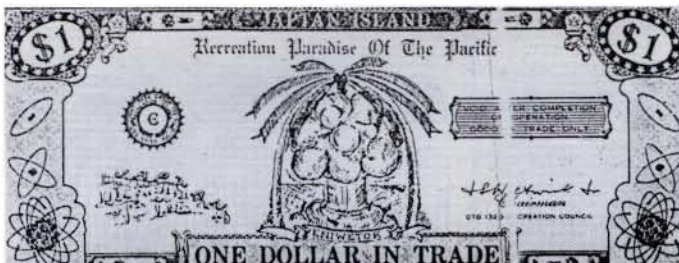
I.B.N.S. #5249

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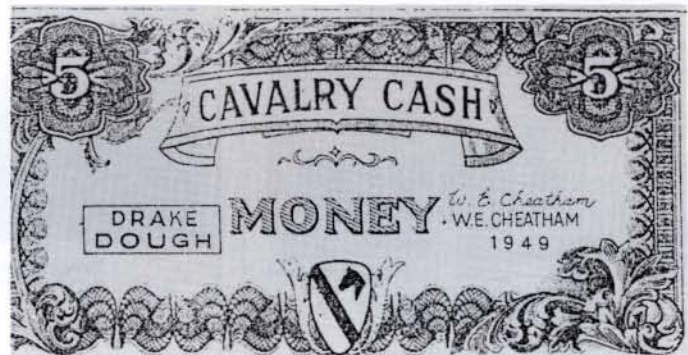
Little Falls, MN 56345



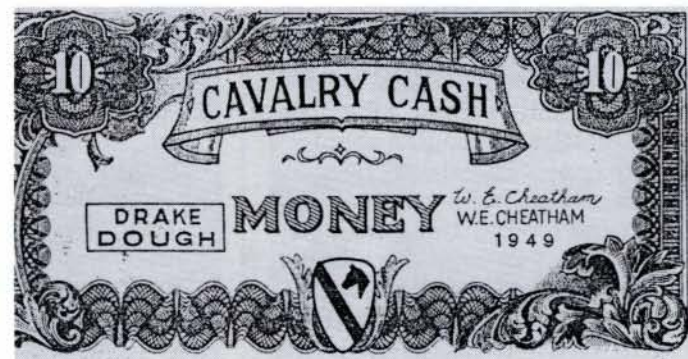
Five Cent Japtan Island Scrip



One Dollar Japtan Island Scrip



Camp Drake Cavalry Cash—5 units



Camp Drake Cavalry Cash — 10 units

Letters to the Editor are always welcome!  
Please send to the address given on page 1.



## Dear Editor,

LANSA (Latin American Paper Money Society) plans to celebrate its 20th anniversary in 1993. Many exciting activities are planned to commemorate this wonderful event. Below is a listing of the numerous activities LANSA has planned:

- Commemorative bank note will be issued for the anniversary
- Meeting planned at the ANA Convention in Baltimore
- Paper Money auction scheduled for early 1993
- 1993 Membership Directory will be mailed to all members
- LANSA journal will be mailed with added features.

The society is a great way of corresponding with other fellow collectors and dealers around the world. You also receive the LANSA journal which contains many fine articles on Latin American bank notes. If you would like more information on LANSA, please write to:

Mr. Arthur C. Matz  
LANSA President  
3304 Milford Mill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21244

Sincerely,

Richard Miranda

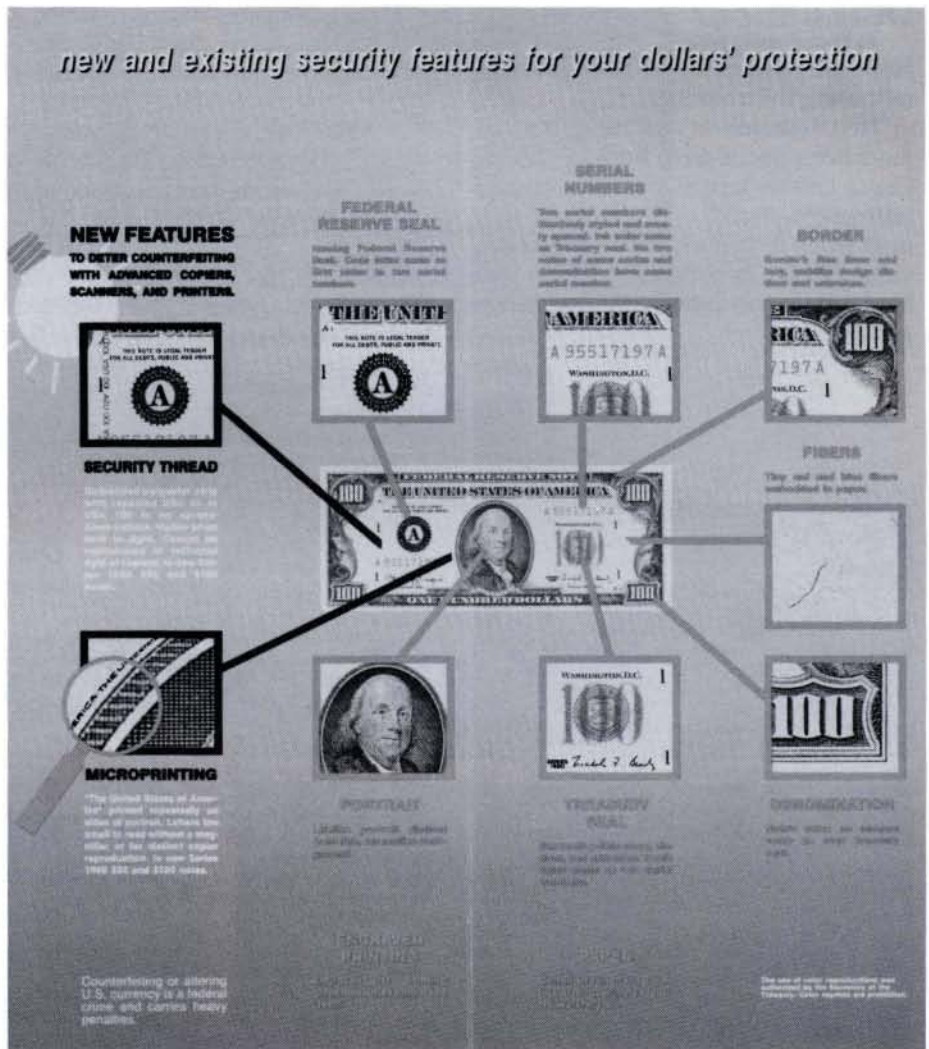
I.B.N.S. #2625

P.O. Box 5256

Fort Wayne, Indiana 46895

## Dear Editor,

I have recently become a member of the I.B.N.S. after reading about it in a magazine. I had always been interested in foreign currency as a child and recently this went a step further after an extensive tour of Europe revived my interest. I became fascinated with the different currencies, not only the actual notes themselves, but also the stories behind the illustrations and the



Brochure detailing changes in United States paper currency for Series 1990

political and historical implications of the currency. For example, I can vaguely remember a friend I have in Bulgaria telling me that notes with a six figure serial number could be bought and sold in currency markets in the communist bloc as was, but those with a seven figure serial number were worthless outside of Bulgaria. (I have probably got the exact details of this incorrect but the situation is not untrue.)

Through my membership in the

I.B.N.S. I hoped to learn things like this about bank notes to get me started seriously collecting foreign currency. To this end I would ask other members to share information that perhaps they would consider "basic knowledge" to give people who have just started to collect a good foundation to their currency education. Perhaps people could contribute articles which give a summary of the currencies in different regions of the world. I



would be particularly grateful for information on European (especially Eastern European) currency.

Could you also recommend some good books that would get me started seriously?

I congratulate you on a fine journal and hope over the coming months to see some articles as described above.

*Yours faithfully,*  
Simon Wainwright.  
I.B.N.S.#6249  
5 Croxteth Drive  
Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 1AA  
England

## Dear Editor,

Enclosed are some photocopies of the current Scottish bank notes in circulation.

These notes are very much reduced in size and fall into line with the sizes for the Bank of England issues. They are identical to the ones they replaced two years ago.

They are, of course, within the sterling area and have the same value as the English pound.

There are three banks which issue bank notes in Scotland, the Royal Bank, the Clydesdale Bank and the Bank of Scotland. All these notes circulate freely, with each bank

issuing its own particular notes and returning any other issues to the appropriate bank of issue.

All three banks issue notes up to £100 in value, although the Bank of Scotland and the Clydesdale Bank no longer issue the one-pound note.

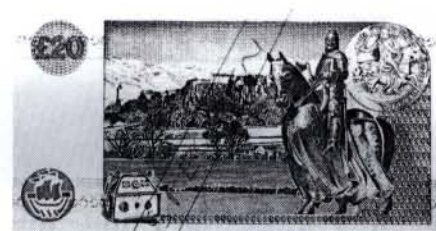
The Royal Bank issued a special one-pound note on December 8 last year to commemorate the "European Community Summit," held in Edinburgh in December 1992. The serial letters all begin with EC for European Community, and two million were printed. Some are cased in a clear plastic case. They will get pretty scarce in time, as many are in circulation and can only get tattered and then destroyed



10£ Clydesdale Bank



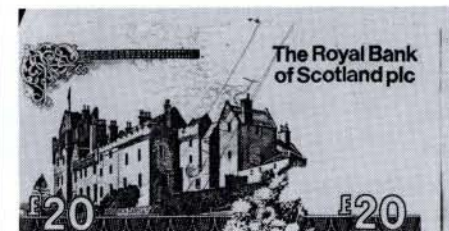
20£ Clydesdale Bank



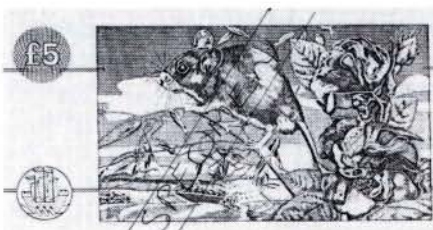
10£ Royal Bank of Scotland



20£ Royal Bank of Scotland



5£ Clydesdale Bank



5£ Royal Bank of Scotland





thereafter, leaving the only ones left in collectors hands. This is the first commemorative bank note in Scotland.

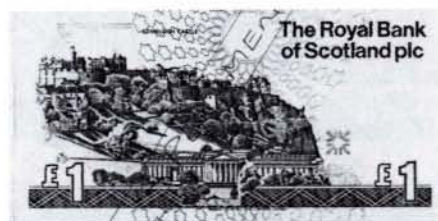
Regards,

J. Bartholomew  
I.B.N.S. #6058  
25 Emily Dr.  
Motherwell, Lanarkshire  
Scotland

P.S. Regret I have not been able to photocopy the £50 and £100 notes. I have not been able to get them.



1£ Royal Bank of Scotland



## Dear Editor,

I was pleasantly surprised upon reading the *I.B.N.S. Journal*, Volume 31, Number 4, that you had included my recent letter and Australian \$5.00 note pamphlet.

I am writing again to let you know that any members/readers who would like one or two copies of this pamphlet can have them in trade for a similar pamphlet and/or posters of any other world bank note.

Ideally, I would prefer to trade two copies of each pamphlet for two copies of the Australian pamphlet.

### Editor's Note:

A letter from Joseph Boling was received. President Reedy wanted a chance to respond. Both letters will appear in the next issue.



1£ Royal Bank of Scotland Commemorative



5£ Bank of Scotland

I also hope to have a \$10 pamphlet available when the note is actually released.

Thanks very much.

Regards,

Scott De Young, I.B.N.S. #5173  
P.O. Box 131, Bondi Junction  
N.S.W. 2022  
Australia

## Dear Editor,

I would like to make a comment on the very detailed article of Richard Underwood "Thematic Collecting."

Mr. Underwood writes that all European Monarchies, except Denmark and Norway, show the ruling monarch on at least one note. But there are only eight note-issuing



10£ Bank of Scotland



20£ Bank of Scotland

monarchies in Europe of which only Luxemburg, Spain and Great Britain show the resp. Grand Duke, King and Queen.

Belgium plans to issue a 10,000 francs note with the King and Queen on it. Norway, Denmark and The Netherlands do not have any monarch whatsoever on a present note.

Sincerely your,

Jos Niewold, I.B.N.S. #5293  
Jan Heymanslaan 61  
5246 BJ Rosmalen  
The Netherlands





## The Prisoner of War Camp at Algona, Iowa: A Look at the Camp and its Monetary System

Steve Feller, I.B.N.S. # 4195



One cent scrip from Algona POW camp.



Fifty cents scrip from Algona POW camp.

Today, Algona, Iowa is a small, peaceful, and somewhat sleepy city in the midwestern section of the United States. It is the seat of Kossuth County named after the nineteenth century leader in the movement for Hungarian independence — indeed scrip issued by Kossuth as part of a fund-raising campaign can be readily obtained in the numismatic marketplace and represents a footnote to this history. During the latter stages of the second world war the town became the center of a large German prisoner-of-war base camp which had nearly three dozen subcamps in four states. The Algona prisoner-of-war

camps handled a total of ten thousand prisoners of war which is nearly double the population of the small city today!

During the recently-concluded winter holidays, I had the pleasure of travelling to this city for the express purpose of seeing the camp site as well as other relevant areas.

In this article I will report on this trip as well as present a brief history of the camp with a particular focus on the numismatic aspects of life in the camps. This will include a detailed look at the scrip coupons issued there.

Why was such a camp put in Algona? Toward the end of the war



Courtesy of George Lobdell and *The Palimpsest*.

A flag-lowering ceremony at the Algona base camp, 1945.



and immediately afterwards there were nearly half a million prisoners of war, mostly German, housed in over 500 camps spread across the United States. The vice president of the United States at that time was Henry A. Wallace, a leading citizen of Iowa. Previously he was president of the Pioneer Seed Company. This company was and is one of the large seed-producing concerns in the midwestern corn belt of the United States. Pioneer Seeds had a major facility in Algona and still does. One can begin to comprehend the reason the camp was situated in that area. It was to provide much needed labor.

The main camp was located just three miles (on U.S. highway 18) to the west of town. Today, the camp site is occupied by an airfield and is surrounded by agricultural fields. There is not a trace of the original buildings from the camp. (Remnants of the sewage disposal system still exist southeast of the camp.) Curiously, the main relic left behind from the camp is a nativity scene which was built by the prisoners of war (P.W.s) under the direction of Eduard Kaib, a non-commissioned officer in the German Army. By training an architect, Mr. Kaib led a

sustained effort by German P.W.s to build the half-life size exhibit. The entire cost of mounting this project was borne by the P.W.s and the total came to \$8000! This money came solely from the earnings of the prisoners. Today, a building which houses the nativity scene is located on the county fairgrounds which is within the city limits. Each December the scene is opened to the public, free of charge, and the work required to maintain and staff the scene is donated by members of United Methodist Men. This has become a very popular tourist attraction in that area. During my visit I made it a point to see the nativity scene.

Under the terms of the Geneva Convention of 1929 all soldiers below the rank of sergeant could be required to work for the captor. Non-commissioned officers were used to perform supervisory work while commissioned officers were not required to work unless they requested to do so. All P.W.s received a minimum of 10 cents per day. Those who worked could supplement this by as much as 80 cents per day. In addition, the monthly salaries for officers was set as follows:

Lieutenants .....	\$ 20
Captains .....	\$ 30
Majors to generals .....	\$ 40

At all of the prisoner-of-war camps in the United States, these wages were not paid in current American currency since an escapee would have a significant advantage with actual American money! Rather, the account of each individual prisoner was credited with the proper amount and a canteen system was established to provide spending opportunities for the P.W.s. The medium of exchange in the canteens was scrip in the form of movie-ticket-sized coupons.

Dr. George H. Lobdell, recently retired history professor and nephew of the commandant of the Algona Prisoner of War Camp (Lieutenant Colonel Arthur T. Lobdell), is working on a book regarding the camp and his uncle's experiences there. Along these lines he has just published a marvelous article in the winter 1992 issue of *The Palimpsest*, a popular journal of the State Historical Society in Iowa City, Iowa, on the camp at Algona. Entitled, "A Tale of Two Christmases" it relates many interesting details regarding the camp and life there. In addition, Dr. Lobdell has possession of several of his uncle's original documents which bear on many aspects of the camp including numismatic ones. In particular, he sent a copy of a talk prepared by Colonel Lobdell at the end of the war in which a fairly detailed discussion of the camp finances, including work performed by the prisoners, was discussed. This information is presented here in somewhat abridged form:

The Geneva convention required that all soldiers below the rank of sergeant must work while non-com's and officers could request work if they desire. With the exception of 118 SS men the 10,000 Germans in our command all worked. So far as possible the prisoners were employed in the skills they had learned in Germany. For example, our 12 German county agents were used to supervise large scale farm work in the field and in the winter taught classes in de-tasseling



The Nativity scene was created by the prisoners of war in the Algona prison camp in 1944-45 during World War II under the direction of Eduard Kaib. The scene is maintained and sponsored by the United Methodist Men of Algona, Iowa.





Courtesy of George Lobdell and *The Palimpsest*.

**Lieutenant Colonel Arthur T. Lobdell**  
Commandant of the Algona  
Prisoner of War Camp.

corn, sugar beet culture and American farm methods. Our 26 college professors were used as instructors and clerks; brick layers, concrete workers were used in brick and tile plants; lumber jacks in the north woods and wounded men as hospital orderlies. We had at least 4 Germans who were professional prisoners of war, having been prisoners in World War I. The oldest in our camp claimed to be 69 and there were hundreds in their 60's and 50's, as well as about 100 children, 14 to 16 years of age. The types of work in 20 months were:

Logging .....	15%
Agriculture .....	20%
Factory .....	35%
Government work at Sioux Falls Base, Missouri River and other camps .....	30%
Total .....	100%

During the time I was commanding officer at Algona from June 12, 1944 to January 1, 1946 the value of labor at the prevailing rate of pay done by PW's was \$3,506,000 which was made up of \$2,406,000 from private contractors and \$1,100,000 from government. \$1,760,000 was deposited by our camp to the treasury of the United States to be used to help pay the cost of government.

The fundamental rule in the use of prisoners of war in the United States was to use them only where there was a scarcity of free American labor. An employee paid the going wage, say 60 cents for common labor, \$1.10 for carpenter helper and \$1.375 per hour for brick layer. The PW got 10 cents per hour, not to exceed 80 cents per day. Say a contractor paid the government \$1.00 per hour for 10 hours per day, or a total of \$10.00. The PW got 80 cents and the difference was deposited in the United States treasury. When the PW worked for the government the government paid the PW only the 80 cents per day and there was no return to the treasury on government work.

The PW was never paid in money but he was paid in coupons, which they could spend in their canteen for such items as: newspapers, books, soap, haircuts and other non-rationed items. At first they spent all of their earnings, but towards the spring of 1945 they began saving and when they left Algona in the winter of 1946 each averaged about \$135.00 of savings to take to Germany.

#### Prisoner of War Canteens

In the base camp and its 32 branch camps a large business was developed in the P.W. canteens, which business was headed by an American officer but was handled by prisoners formerly business men in Germany. Those business men might kill on the battlefield, but they handled their business with absolute honesty and whenever there was any shortage they made good any discrepancies with their own coupons.

Our camps had an average of 3,261 P.W.'s for 20 months. Suppose each spent 40 cents per day in the canteen. This meant

about \$1,300 per day, or a grand total of \$680,000 of business in their canteens, all behind the barbed wire. The Germans read newspapers and searched catalogs for things to purchase. The (Geneva) Convention required that profits should go for the benefits of the P.W.'s. With profits of about 6% there were about \$45,000 which were spent by a Board (sic) of which I was Chairman (sic) and there were three other Americans and three P.W.'s. Among the purchases were: musical instruments for 17 different bands, athletic goods for soccer, ping pong, hand ball, tennis in some camps. Radios, one for each 50 P.W.'s. A library for the base camp and each branch camp. Watch repairing. Furniture for their barracks and recreation buildings. Additional activities including the purchase of text books, paper, pencils, mimeograph machines, correspondence school courses, *New York Times*; one for every 50 P.W.'s, local newspapers in Iowa and Minnesota, *Life*, *Time*, *Derruff*, and also for the local camp paper published by the Germans. Carpenter tools, carving sets, puzzles, card games and art supplies.

From their earnings the prisoners contributed sizable sums of



Courtesy of Algona Nativity Scene and *The Palimpsest*.

**A PW works in a truck garden.**



money to various organizations including the following:

\$30,000	to the International Red Cross
23,000	to the International Y.M.C.A.
7,500	to Lutheran religious activities
6,000	to Catholic activities
3,000	to Seventh Day Adventist
1,500	to Quakers

In the first week of April, 1945, a month before V.E. Day the camp spokesman stated that the prisoners of war would voluntarily give donations of money and would accept a cut in their already limited food supply so that money and food stuffs could go to the head of the nationals of all European countries who were suffering as a result of the war. Authority was never received to handle this request and nothing came of it.

The total earnings of the prisoner of war out of Algona and its base camp totaled about \$1,400,000. What became of their money?

They gave away about 8%. Estimated as follows:

Charity	\$100,000
40 cents per day, each P.W. in the canteen	678,000
Took back to Germany average \$135 each	490,000
Misc. R.R. fares, private subscriptions, books, etc.	132,000
Total	\$1,400,000



Courtesy of Algona Nativity Scene and *The Palimpsest*.

PWs stack wood at the Algona base camp, June, 1945.

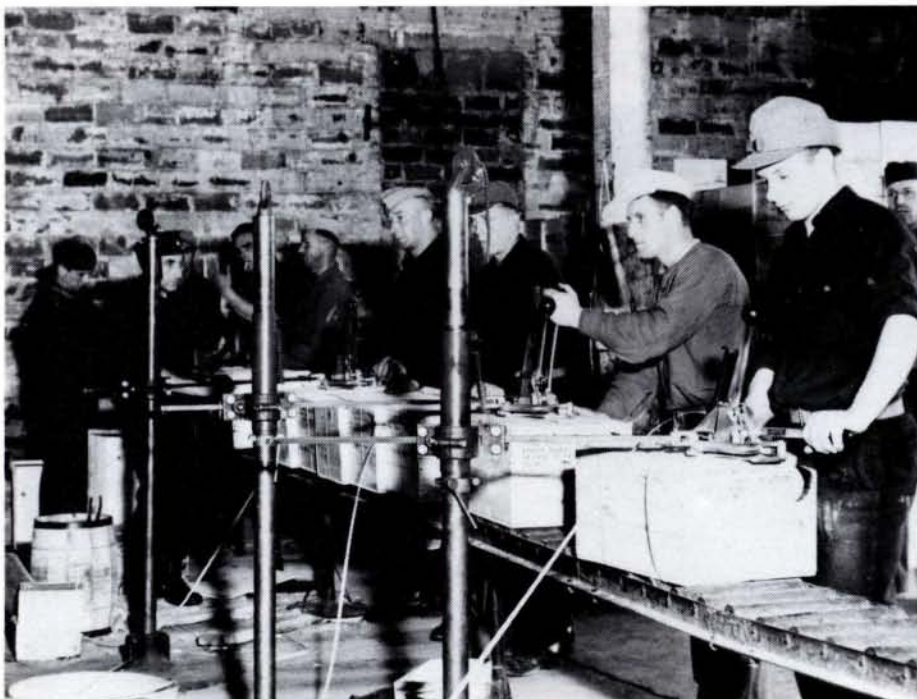
Now let us take a detailed look at the money itself.

The money came in booklets of chits. Five denominations of scrip



Courtesy of George Lobdell.

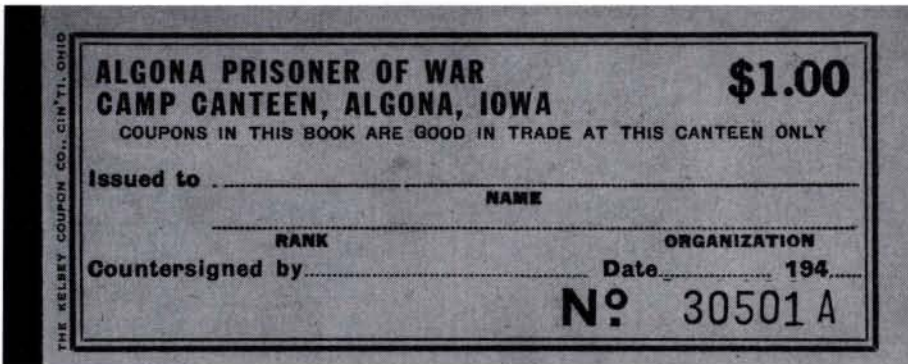
Strip of 5c scrip from The Algona Prisoner of War Camp



Courtesy of Algona Nativity Scene and *The Palimpsest*.

PWs from the branch camp at Fairmont, Minnesota, pack crates.





Coupon booklet from Algona for \$1.00. First Printing.

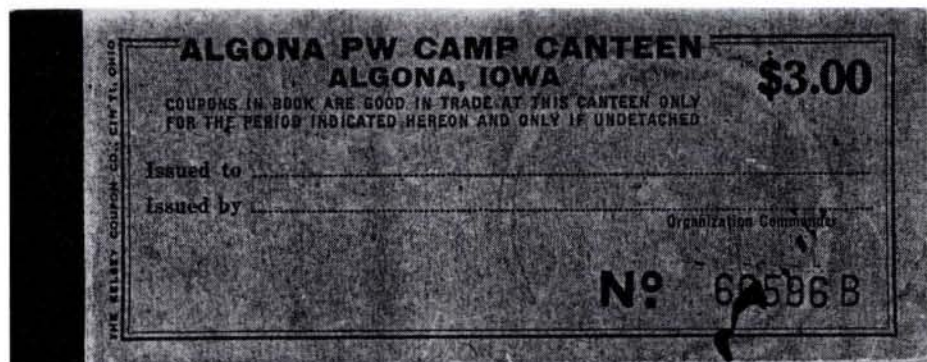


Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Strip of 25¢ scrip from Lt. Colonel Lobdell's own booklet.

with a total face value of \$140,000), followed by the red printing (ordered between February 3, 1945 and

are known from Algona including 1,5,10,25, and 50 cent values. It is interesting to observe that while all of the scrip issued for Camp Algona was printed by the Kelsey Coupon Company of Cincinnati, Ohio there are three varieties for the color of ink used on the chits. Each denomination from Algona is known in blue, red, and green. Lance Campbell numbers these 7483 a,b,c through 7487 a,b,c in his comprehensive catalog *Prisoner of War and Concentration Camp Money of the Twentieth Century*. Each denomination was printed on a particular colored paper: white, orange, grey, yellow, and pink for the 1-, 5-, 10-, 25-, and 50 cent denominations; respectively. According to Albert Donn in his classic work (1970), *World War II Prisoner of War Scrip of the United States*, the three ink colors refer to three distinct printing orders for the chits with the blue being printed first (ordered on October 13, 1944



Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Coupon booklet kept by Algona Commandant, Lt. Colonel Lobdell. \$3.00. Last Printing.

Nazi  
Propaganda  
taken from  
P.O.W. in  
searches at  
Stockade gate  
at Algona.

A T Lobdell  
August  
1944

Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Clipped to the sheaf of propaganda leaflets in Lt. Col. Lobdell's file.



June 26, 1945 with a net face value of \$465,000), and ending with the green printing (notes ordered on August 21, 1945 in the amount of \$200,000). The data provided by Donn are in very reasonable agreement with the estimate provide by Colonel Lobdell in that Donn's total value for printed chits comes to \$805,000 while Colonel Lobdell's estimate was for a total transaction of \$680,000 in the canteens.

The booklets are known in four different denominations: one, three, five, and ten dollars. Each of the booklets was composed of strips of five chits bundled together with a printed cover for the booklet.

The one dollar coupon booklet that is shown in the illustration has a single one-cent chit left in it. However, the remaining stubs and their colors allow for a reconstruction of the original contents and these were as follows:

- one strip of five 10 cent coupons,
- one strip of five 5 cent coupons,
- five strips of five 1 cent coupons.

The sum of the face values of the scrip does equal \$1.00.

Furthermore, since some of the ink has rubbed off of the ten-cent coupons on the inside cover of the booklet indicating they were printed with blue ink and the remaining one cent chit from the booklet was also printed with blue ink it is reasonable to suppose that all coupons in this booklet were printed with blue ink. Since this booklet cover differs from the three dollar value to be described below it is instructive to quote it:

ALGONA PRISONER OF WAR \$1.00  
CAMP CANTEEN, ALGONA, IOWA

COUPONS IN THIS BOOK ARE GOOD IN  
TRADE AT THIS CANTEEN ONLY

Issued to \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME

RANK ORGANIZATION

Countersigned by \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ 194\_\_\_\_  
No 30501A

Also in fine vertical print is the notation:  
THE KELSEY COUPON CO., CINTI, OHIO.

# Certificate of Credit Balance for Prisoner of War

Date JUL 15 1945  
Datum

This is to certify that KLEIN, Alfred Sold. 475-73 562;  
(PW Name) (Rank) (ISN)  
a prisoner of war in custody at the United States of America on this date,  
has a credit balance of \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 14.80  
(Words) (Amount in Figures)  
for pay, allowances and other moneys credited to his individual account  
during the period of his internment.

Bescheinigung ueber Guthaben von Kriegsgefangenen

Ich bescheinige hiermit dass \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name des Kriegsgefangenen) (Rang)  
\_\_\_\_\_, Kriegsgefangener im Gewahrsam der Vereinigten Staaten von  
(ISN)  
Amerika, ein persoenliches Guthaben im Betrage von \_\_\_\_\_  
(in Worten)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ aus Sold, Zuschlaegen und sonstigen waehrend der Gefangen-  
(in Zahlen) schaft erhaltenen Geldsummen bestehend, besitzt.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of Certifying Officer,  
(Unterschrift des die Bescheinigung  
ausstellenden Offiziers)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Rank and Title)  
(Rang und Amt)

POW, Camp Rucker, Alabama  
(Station)  
(Dienststelle)

The above statement includes all moneys due me from the United States  
of America on this date.

Die obige Bescheinigung schliesst saemtliche Geldsummen ein, die mir  
gegenwaertig von der Regierung der Vereinigten Staaten zustehen.

Alfred Klein  
(Prisoner of War)  
(Kriegsgefangener)

Taken from Nazi Prisoners of War in America.

## Certificate of credit balance from Camp Rucker, Alabama.

The serial number 30501A, printed in red, was used on all of the chits in this particular booklet. According to Donn this number is consistent with this being the five hundredth booklet printed of the first 10,000 one dollar booklets (serial numbers 30001A through 40000A). Since the vast majority of known POW chits have serial numbers which imply that they were specially set aside by the printer or by the issuing authority (ending in one or six with many

special numbers), one might speculate that this booklet was among the first booklets set aside as a souvenir.

The three dollar coupon booklet reported here was kept by Lt. Colonel Lobdell himself and its contents were reported by Professor George Lobdell. It contains chits (printed in green ink) all with the same red serial number (66596B) as follows:

- one strip of five 25 cent coupons,
- two strips of five 10 cent coupons,



two strips of five 5 cent coupons,  
five strips of five 1 cent coupons.

The cover of this booklet reads as follows:

ALGONA PW CAMP CANTEEN  
ALGONA, IOWA \$3.00

COUPONS IN BOOK ARE GOOD IN  
TRADE AT THIS CANTEEN ONLY FOR  
THE PERIOD INDICATED HEREON AND  
ONLY IF UNDETACHED

Issued to \_\_\_\_\_

Issued by \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Commander  
No. 66596B

Also, as before, in fine vertical print is the notation:

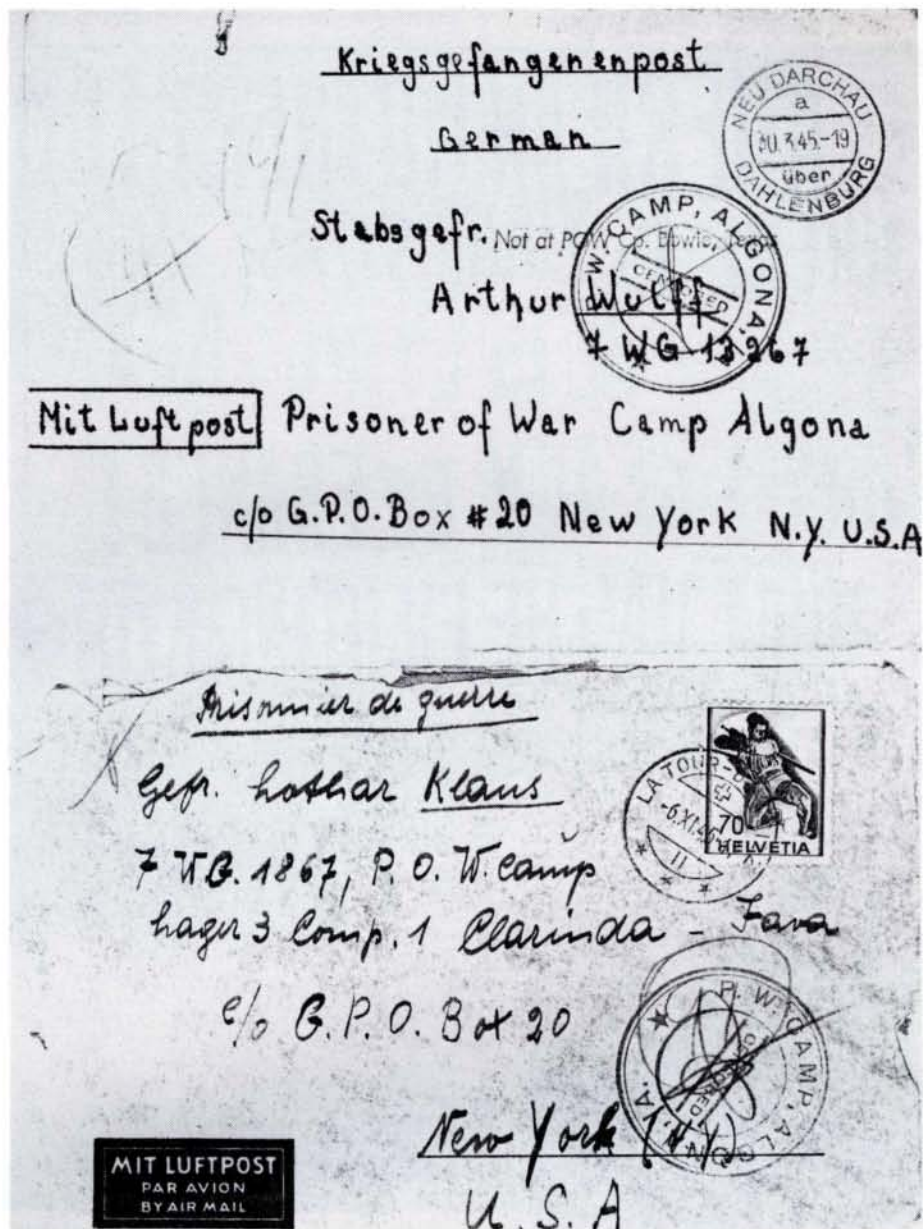
THE KELSEY COUPON CO., CIN'TI, OHIO.

One can speculate as to the reason for the condition regarding the coupons having to be still attached to the booklet in order to be valid. Of course, the cover had the name of the owner on it along with the issuing authority. Perhaps this regulation was to keep a lid on illicit trading and the development of a



Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Strip of 1c scrip  
from the Algona Prisoner of War Camp



Courtesy of George Lobdell.

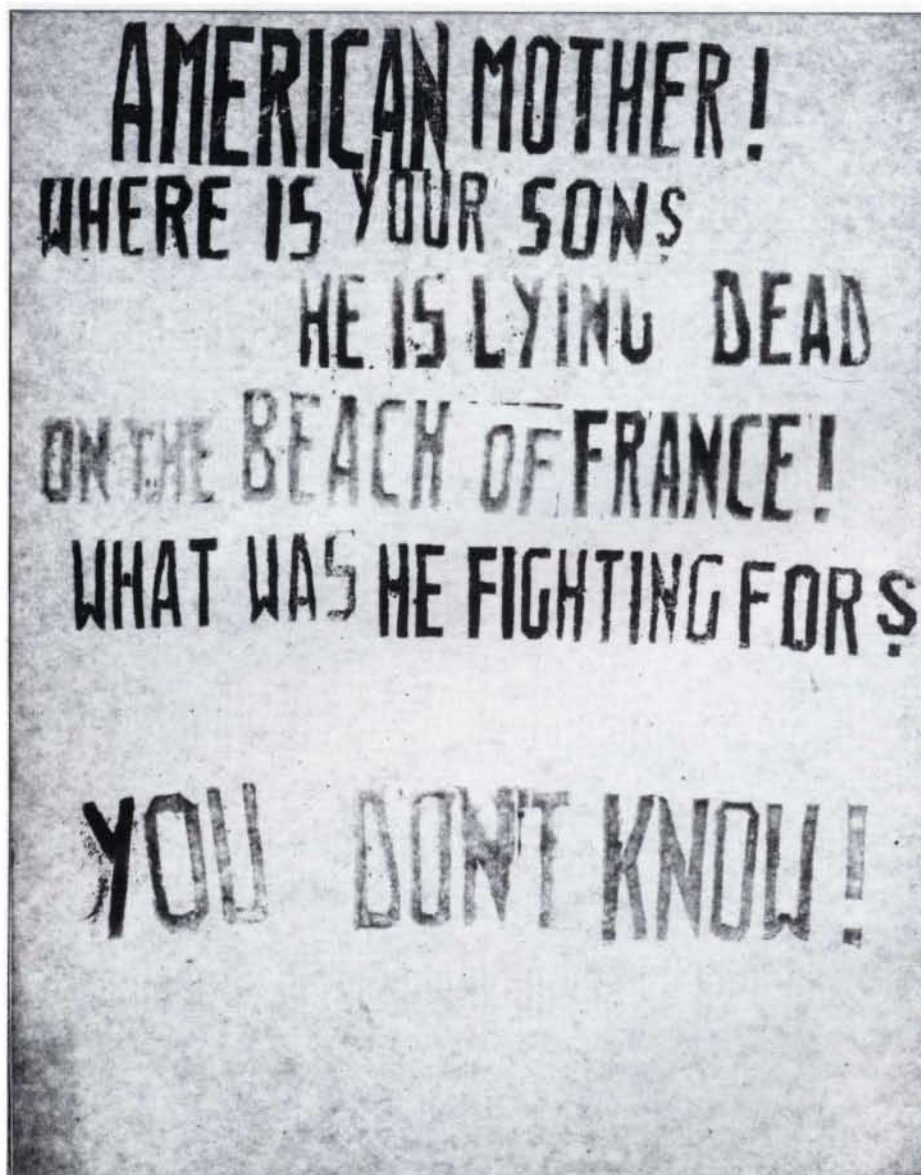
Letters sent to Algona and Clarinda POW camps from Germany.

black market within the camp. All of the chits issued at Algona, like most of the known POW scrip from the United States, also bear the inscription: "Not Good if Detached" on the lower right side of the note. On the basis of the serial numbers one can be sure that the three dollar booklet was issued after the one dollar booklet indicating that this policy was being reemphasized.

The difference between the A and B suffixes in the serial numbers is known to be due to a difference in

denomination for the booklet. Thus "A" refers to a one dollar booklet, "B" to the three dollar booklet, "C" to the five dollar booklet, and "D" to the ten dollar booklet. The serial number for the three dollar booklet is the 1595<sup>th</sup> booklet issued for three dollars in the last printing of August 21, 1945. Since it is known that Lt. Colonel Lobdell was commandant until early 1946 perhaps he was given this booklet at the time he left as a souvenir. (Dr. Lobdell is confident that this is correct.)





Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Propaganda leaflet produced by German PWs at Algona.

Other numismatic-related items are known from the camp at Algona. At least two types of propaganda leaflets were produced by the prisoners of war for distribution to nearby Iowans. These are crudely produced and in poor English yet they are revealing of the mind set of at least some of the prisoners. The two known leaflets (observed at the Kossuth County Historical Museum and received most kindly as a gift to this author from Dr. Lobdell) have the following messages (unedited):

AMERICAN MOTHER!  
WHERE IS YOUR SON?  
HE IS LYING DEAD ON THE  
BEACH  
OF FRANCE! WHAT WAS HE  
FIGHTING FOR?  
YOU DON'T KNOW!

and

AMERICANS!  
ROOSEVELT NOT LONG AGO:  
'NEVER AMERICANS WILL FIGHT  
OVERSEAS!  
FACTS OF TO-DAY

THE INVASION ORDERED BY  
ROOSEVELT HAS JUST  
STARTED AND WILL CLEIM  
HECATOMBS OF  
AMERICAN LIFE.

These leaflets were confiscated from the P.W.s at the stockade gate at Algona according to Lt. Colonel Lobdell in a note attached to the saved documents. This note is signed in the commandant's hand in August, 1944 (See Pag 13). Lt. Colonel Lobdell stated that the propaganda sheets were printed by the PWs using "wooden dies and Y.M.C.A. ink and paper." They come in black and purple ink on an onionskin paper (8" x 10<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>" standard U.S. Army issue- sized paper). There is reason to believe that they were produced individually, since the positions of the letters and words varies from copy to copy, even when the same words were used.

Perhaps a check will be found issued by the United State Treasury

## Nazi Prisoners in State Pass Out Propaganda

AUSTIN, MINN.—(P)—Minnesota had a sample of direct Nazi propaganda here today when German prisoners, passing through on a train to work in the Montgomery canning factory, scattered swastika-embellished propaganda leaflets along the railroad tracks as the train passed through Austin.

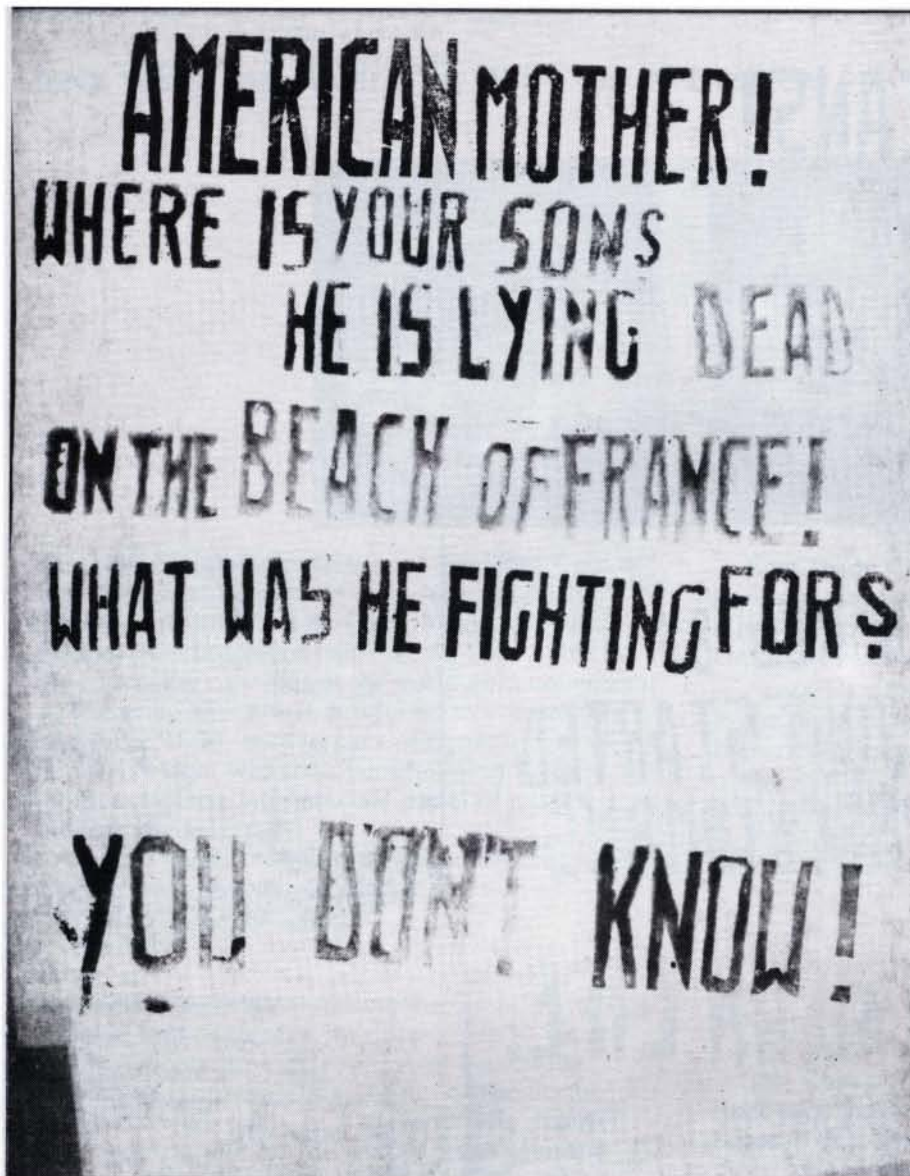
"Amerikans! Soon the robot bombers will come to your soil. Soon you will feel what war means. Quit the war before it is too late," read the mildest of five samples picked up.

All of the sheets apparently were homemade.

Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Fairmont Daily Sentinel  
August 4, 1944





Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Notice the different positioning of letters on this propaganda leaflet produced at Algona compared with the one on page 16.

for the payoff of Algona PWs returning to Germany. Above it was mentioned by Lt. Colonel Lobdell that the average prisoner received \$135 of his earnings after leaving the camp. Fred Schwan reports seeing such a check issued for a German prisoner who was interned in one of the prisoner of war camps in the United States. The document shown in the illustration (page 14) is from Camp Rucker Alabama but presumably similar documents exist regarding Camp Algona.

Related to the numismatic story of the camp is the philatelic history.

Mail was allowed in and out of the camp subject to military censorship. A most relevant example was recorded by Lt. Colonel Lobdell. In this exchange of letters a German PW wrote:

Our good food is continuing. We do not understand why. We go out to work. You need not send any more Red Cross packages from Germany or Argentine. We can buy our 80 cents daily earnings, enough for our daily needs and better than you can send us. We work hard and we are glad to work in the rich

country and we will make it better for the fuehrer when he takes over this country with his secret weapon, heil Hitler.

And his family replied:

Yes we get your letters not to send anything and we know why you write them. We shall continue to send our Red Cross boxes, heil Hitler.

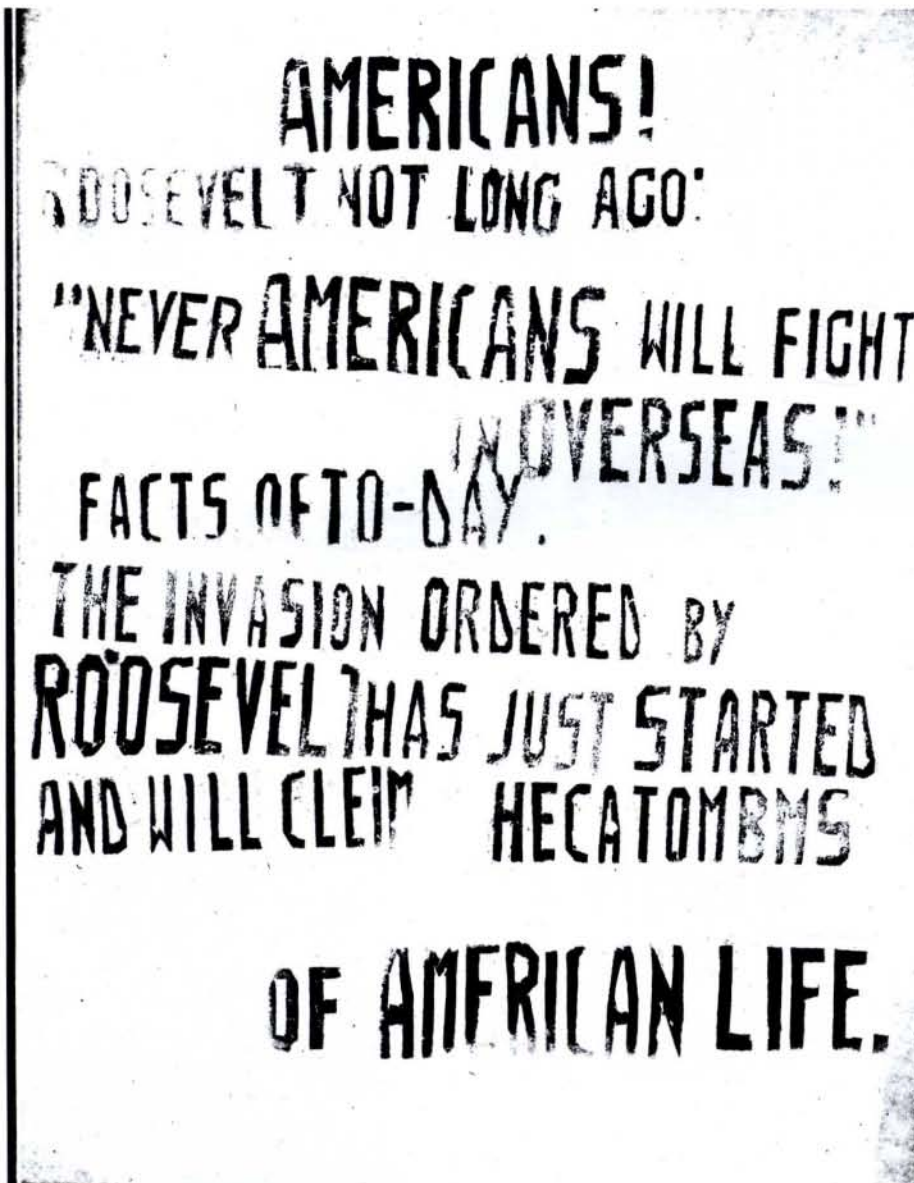
The letter envelopes shown on page 15 are each examples of mail from Europe (one was mailed from Germany and one from Switzerland) intended for prisoners at Algona or Clarinda, Iowa. Clarinda was Iowa's other main base camp. Since these letter envelopes are from the personal collection of Colonel Lobdell, perhaps this prisoner was transferred from Clarinda to Algona. Note the military censorship markings. Also note that the mail was routed through a general post office in New York. A close look at the cover mailed from "Neu Darchau uber Dahlenburg," Ger-



Courtesy of George Lobdell.

Strip of 10c scrip from The Algona Prisoner of War Camp





A second variety of an Algona propaganda leaflet.

Courtesy of George Lobdell.

many shows that the letter mistakenly was first sent to the prisoner-of-war camp at Bowie, Texas where the notation

"Not at POW Cp. Bowie, Texas" was applied.

This close look at the prisoner-of-war camp at Algona could be replicated at other camps throughout the United States, Canada, Australia, England, India and so on. I, for one, look forward to reading other accounts of such money in this journal in the near future.

#### Acknowledgments

I am grateful to several people for their help with this article. Professor George H. Lobdell generously provided me with much useful information as well as originals of the propaganda leaflets. Wes Bartlett graciously served as my host during a visit to Algona in December 1992 and also answered many questions. Some of the photos (noted when used) were generously supplied by *The Palimpsest*. Dr. Lobdell and Fred Schwan, tireless numismatic historian of the second world war, are thanked for careful comments on the text.

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George H. Lobdell, private communication.

Fred Schwan, private communications.



## Italy Wins Top Award for '91 Coin of the Year



Italy was declared the winner of the 1991 Coin of The Year award by *World Coin News* publisher Albert "Bo" Smith for its Ponte Milvio (Milvian Bridge) 500-lire silver coin. *World Coin News* is the bi-weekly newspaper for world coin collectors.

The coin, which was produced to commemorate the 2,100th anniversary of construction of the famous bridge, was the overwhelming favorite of members of the international panel of judges making the selection.

Judges made their choice from a field of eight category winners determined in the first of two rounds of COTY balloting.

The Milvian Bridge is famous in western history as the site of a famous military battle won by Roman Emperor Constantine the Great. Following a vision that prompted his conversion to Christianity, Constantine defeated rival Maxentius.

An awards presentation to honor the Ponte Milvio coin will occur at a site and time deemed most appropriate for the winner. Last year, the 1990 award winner, the Isle of Man, was recognized at the 17th annual Mint Directors Conference that was held in June in Madrid.

The COTY award was created 10 years ago by *World Coin News*. It recognized excellence in world mint and central bank output and fosters innovation and creativity. It is the numismatic equivalent of Hollywood's Oscar or television's Emmy.

To contend for the top honor, coins first had to be named a category winner in the initial round of voting. The Italian coin was acclaimed the Most Artistic Coin then. Here are the winners in seven other categories:

France's silver 100 francs, Y-157, that featured Olympic ski jumpers, was named Best Crown.

Japan's 100,000 yen, Y-105, commemorating the enthronement of Emperor Akihito, was named Best Gold Coin.

Best Trade Coin was a 200 escudos issued by Portugal. It portrays Garcia De Orta, KM-655, and it is made of an aluminum-bronze ring with a copper-nickel center.

Australia's \$5 silver Kookaburra, KM-138, won in the Most Popular Coin category. The Most Historically significant Coin was a silver 3 roubles of the former Soviet Union that celebrated the first manned space flight of Yuri Gagarin, Y-262.

Albanian coins topped the Best Silver Coin and Most Innovative Coinage Concept categories. A silver 10-leke, Olympic horse and rider jumping right, KM-68, won for Best Silver Coin. In the latter category it was paired with another horse and rider design jumping left, KM-69, that had a convex reverse design that fit into KM-68's concave design.

The Coin of The Year competition has been held each year since it was introduced for issues dated 1982. The two-round judging process is done by an international panel of mint, treasury and central bank officials, leaders of major numismatic organizations, museum curators, engravers, writers, marketers, and individual experts.

Up to 10 nominations in each of the eight categories are compiled initially by an in-house panel at Krause Publications of Iola, Wis., U.S.A., parent firm of *World Coin News* and publisher of the *Standard Catalog of World Coins*.

Previous COTY winners were: The United States, 1982 George Washington silver half dollar; United States, 1983 Olympic silver dollar; Canada, 1984 Jacques Cartier gold \$100; Finland, 1985 Kalevala silver 50 markkaa; United States, 1986 Statue of Liberty gold \$5; United Kingdom, 1987 gold Britannia (100 pounds); Albania, 1988 Railroad Tunnel Silver 50 Leke; France 1989 Eiffel Tower copper-nickel 5 francs; and the Isle of Man, 1990 Penny Black copper-nickel crown.



# Did a Note in your Collection Go Down with the "Whisky Galore" Ship?

by Alistair Gibb, I.B.N.S. #708

When the S.S. *Politician* steamed out of Liverpool harbor in February 1941, its crew can have little imagined that they were sailing into history.

Death they may have expected, for in 1941 the German U-boats were taking a heavy toll of British vessels sailing to the Americas. To reduce that risk, the *Politician* was ordered to sail north, keeping close to the coast and to cross the Atlantic by its northern waters. Their course took them up the coast of Scotland, sailing between the Western Isles and the mainland. As they steamed past the islands of Barra and Eriskay, disaster struck: the ship ran aground.

As luck would have it, the vessel, although stuck fast, was in no immediate danger. The crew abandoned ship in good order and was soon being made welcome by the hospitable islanders.

It was not long before their hosts discovered that amongst its mixed cargo was a substantial consignment of whisky — a commodity which had become scarce in wartime Britain.

The story of the subsequent looting of the *Politician* by the islanders was made famous by Compton Mackenzie in his thinly disguised novel *Whisky Galore*. It became even more widely known when the "novel" was filmed and became one of the country's classic comedies.

Some two thousand cases of whisky were taken from the *Politician* by the wily islanders, rowing out to the wreck at night and decoying the lone Customs officer who was given the thankless task of guarding the cargo. Little else seems to have been brought ashore: the piano proved too difficult to lift from the hold, though it would have been a valuable addition to the school's

equipment; the cloth on board was used for cleaning the ubiquitous fuel oil off hands and clothes, and the casks of beer were either broached on board or left behind.

Eventually order was restored and Arnott Young appointed official salvors. Their divers found the holds in a sorry state. Everything was covered in oil, crates were broken open and their contents spilling out into the water. There were rags and bits of paper everywhere.

It was only after one of the salvage team heard a report that there were children up the coast playing on the beach with real money that he realized the "bits of paper" could be bank notes. They were — Jamaican 10/- notes!

Percy Holden of Arnott Young is sure that he personally counted 720,000 10/- notes from the hold and that he posted the £360,000 parcel to his superiors who returned the notes to the Bank of England. Stories still circulating in the islands speak of £5 and £1 notes to a value of £3 million being found.<sup>1</sup>

Alas for such tales, neither denomination was then in issue.

The records of the Bank of England appear to show that the *Politician* was carrying only £200,000 in 10/- notes, or 400,000 pieces, and that 290,000 were lost in the shipwreck.<sup>2</sup>

Between 1947 and 1957, small quantities of these notes turned up, many being presented at Thomas Cook. The notes were legal tender at the time of the shipwreck and many were paid on presentation. To protect the currency, however, the issue was demonetized in 1951 and replaced by a purple and orange note of identical design. Since 1958 nothing more has been heard of them.

The final tally of the notes on board would now appear to be as follows:

Lost from the <i>Politician</i>	290,000 notes
Of which:	
Officially recovered and destroyed	211,267
Subsequently presented	2,329
Total	213,596
Still unaccounted for	76,404 notes



A note from the *Politician* now in the possession of Allan MacDonald of Eriskay.



An analysis of the records shows that the lost notes bear the serials:

- C/6 60,001 to 100,000
- C/7 60,001 to 100,000
- C/8 60,001 to 100,000
- C/9 50,001 to 100,000
- C/10 50,001 to 100,000
- C/11 30,001 to 100,000

All are blue, printed by De La Rue and dated 1st November 1940, Pick Number 38. Of those still extant which I have located, all are prefixed C/10 or C/11.

So now you can tell: do you have a *Politician* note in your collection which went down in the "Whisky Galore" ship? Recent sales suggest a value of £20 to £30.

For further reading:

*Scotch on the Rocks — the Illustrated True Story of Whisky Galore* by Gerry Burke, Glasgow, 1988.

*Polly. The True Story Behind Whisky Galore* by Roger Hutchinson, Edinburgh, 1990.

*Scotch on the Rocks. The True Story of the 'Whisky Galore' Ship* by Arthur Swinson, London.

And finally, my grateful thanks are due to both Douglas Crawford and Allan MacDonald for generous help with additional information.

<sup>1</sup> "The 'Politician' Notes of Jamaica," by Douglas A. Crawford, *I.B.N.S. Journal*, Volume 11, No. 2 (1971), p. 106.

<sup>2</sup> "The Politician's Deepest Secret by Ray Burnett, *Weekend Scotsman*, September 7, 1991, pp.18-20.

**The Memphis Show  
will be  
June 18-20, 1993**

## CODE OF ETHICS THE INTERNATIONAL BANK NOTE SOCIETY

Membership in the IBNS is a privilege extended to those persons deemed worthy thereof and is not a matter of right. Such membership can be maintained only until the Executive Board determines that the conduct of a member has been such that, in the best interests of the Society, his membership should be terminated.

For the guidance of its members this CODE OF ETHICS has been duly adopted by the Executive Board (under the authority vested in it by the Bylaws of the Society). A breach thereof by any member reflects, directly or indirectly, upon all other members. Such a breach shall be considered conduct prejudicial to the interest of the Society and cause for action by the Executive Board.

### As a member of the I.B.N.S.:

1. I agree to support, and be governed, subject to, and bound by the Bylaws of the Society, and by such rules, policies and regulations as may be in force from time to time.
2. I agree to neither slander nor libel the character of another member, and, in my relationships with other I.B.N.S. members and with the public at large, always to conduct myself in a fair and ethical manner becoming to the good name, reputation and prestige of the Society.
3. I agree to fulfill all contracts and agreements, explicit or implied, made by me, either verbal or written. I agree to take immediate steps to correct any error which I make in any transaction.
4. I agree to neither buy, sell, trade or exchange numismatic items of which the ownership is questionable.
5. I agree not to intentionally misrepresent condition or rarity when selling, trading or exchanging numismatic items. I agree not to clean, wash, press or process, chemically or otherwise, paper money or numismatic items so as to improve their apparent condition or to deceive the recipient.
6. I agree not to represent as genuine any counterfeits, copies or reproductions when selling, trading, exchanging, advertising or exhibiting numismatic items.
7. I agree not to use, or to permit another person to use, for commercial, personal or private gain: my position in I.B.N.S.; any information, not otherwise available to the general membership, which I may obtain by virtue of my position in I.B.N.S.; or, the facilities, communications, procedures or property of I.B.N.S.
8. I agree to respond to official I.B.N.S. correspondence as promptly as possible, and, unless prevented from doing so by reasons clearly beyond my control, always within the time frames established therein.

Approved by the Executive Board, London, 11 October 1992



# Notes on the Recently Released New Zealand Five Dollar Note

by Peter Symes, I.B.N.S. #4245

New Zealand is in the process of introducing a new series of bank notes. Currently the five- and twenty-dollar notes have been released, and these will be followed by ten-, fifty-, and one hundred-dollar notes.

The notes are printed by Thomas de la Rue and are amazing in the number of security features that dominate the notes. Security features for the five-dollar note that are highlighted in the awareness campaign of the Reserve Bank of New Zealand are:

*Watermark.* To the right of the note is a pale green and orange area that contains a watermark of Queen Elizabeth II.

*The windowed security thread.* When held to the light, or viewed from the back, the thread at the left of the note appears as a solid thread, but the thread appears to weave in and out of the paper when viewed from the face of the note.

*The latent image.* At the top right on the face of the note is an oval disc of intaglio printing. When this oval is viewed at a very low angle, the letters "NZ" appear.

*Serial numbers.* The serial numbers of the note appear twice, with the number at the left of the note written vertically—making life just a little more difficult for the would-be forger.

*The perfectly-registered fern leaf.* On the left of face of the note is a pattern of fern leaves, with the bottom leaf being silver. The back of the note also has a fern leaf, and when the note is held to the light the two leaves register perfectly. As well as registering perfectly, the brown fronds on the back of the note fill the white fronds on the face, and when viewed from the back, the silver fronds fill the white fronds.

*Microprinting.* A line of microprinting can be found beneath the portrait of Sir Edmund Hillary—to the left. The microprinting consists of the letters "RBNZ" (Reserve Bank of New Zealand) repeated many times.

*Intaglio printing.* Dominant features on the note such as the portrait, denomination, title of the bank and sundry details are all in intaglio (raised) printing.

Whilst it is impossible to detect all security features, there are a number of other devices which are reasonably apparent although not advertised. These are:

*Further microprinting.* Trailing to the right of the portrait of Sir Edmund Hillary are two bars of intaglio printing. When the lower, solid bar is magnified, the letters "NZ" can be seen repeated many hundreds of times in reverse image—i.e. it is the absence of intaglio ink which forms the printing. Between this bar and the bar of interlaced lines just above, there is a line of intaglio microprinting similar to the advertised one below Sir Edmund Hillary.

*Offset printing.* The complex patterns produced by the offset printing process probably hold many security checks—one

example is the pale area which holds the watermark. At first viewing this area looks like a plain printing, but when magnified it can be seen that the colors are achieved by many tiny lines of color. The lines form a pattern like crazy paving, and when the note is photocopied, these lines become more apparent, as the human eye balances the colored lines and their white background into a pale color—whereas the photocopier only picks up the lines.

*Ultraviolet-sensitive inks.* On the face of the note, just above Mount Everest, is a small panel printed in ink which is not visible in normal light. When viewed under ultraviolet light, the panel appears in gold, with the number "5" in the center. The silver fern leaf that is part of the perfect registration, the tractor at the bottom of the note, and areas between the white "5" and the tractor also appear in a gold color. When the back of the note is viewed under ultraviolet light, the yellow colors become highlighted, especially the line above the eye of the "Hoiho" (yellow eyed penguin).

Along with the myriad of security features appearing on the note, the greatest surprise is the appearance of the portrait of Sir Edmund Hillary. Apart from a head of state, it is almost unheard of to use on a currency issue the portrait of a person who is still alive.

Indeed in some countries it is forbidden by law to portray a living person on a bank note, coin or postage stamp. One assumes it is not against the law in New Zealand and there is no reason why a living person cannot be pictured on a bank note.

The reason most countries don't illustrate their notes with a living person is that there is always the danger that the person may become disgraced—and then the bank notes would become an embarrassment. For this reason, it is perhaps an even greater sign of respect that Sir Edmund Hillary has been selected.

Sir Edmund Hillary's main claim to fame is that along with Sherpa Tensing Norgay he made the first ascent of Mt. Everest on May 29, 1953. Hillary also led the final dash for the first vehicular party to reach the South Pole in January 1958.

Hillary has spent much of his later life working with the people in the Nepal/Himalaya region and was the New Zealand High Commissioner to India from 1985 to 1989.

With the portrait of a living person (who is not the head of state) appearing on a bank note, perhaps the precedent has been set and many more will follow. I doubt it, but it does raise an interesting question: How many other notes carry (or carried) portraits of people whilst they were living, but who were not the head of state?



## Book Review

### A Review of *The Comprehensive Catalog of U.S. Paper Money*

Reviewed by Bob Cochran

*The Comprehensive Catalog of U.S. Paper Money* by Gene Hessler. Fifth Edition, 1992. BNR Press, 132 East Second Street, Port Clinton, Ohio 43452-1115. Available in softcover, \$30 or limited edition hardcover, \$40.

It's amazing to me, but one of the complaints I hear constantly from beginning collectors of paper money is, "I can't find enough articles or information about what I collect!" Well folks, if what you collect falls into the category of U.S. Government paper money issues, you no longer have a reason to complain. The title of this book says it all, as it should—it is the ONLY comprehensive catalog that covers ALL the paper currency issues of the U.S. Government, from 1812 to the present.

Covered are the "cash" notes that are pretty much self-explanatory—the notes that were created by Federal Laws to circulate AS currency. But this book (like no other available) also covers those "obscure" issues which weren't originally intended to circulate as "currency," but, human nature being what it is, DID AND DO circulate as "currency-interest-bearing notes of the War of 1812 and later, up to the time of the Civil War; postal notes; even food stamps and coupons. Other sections describe error notes, issues of U.S. Territories and Possessions, military payment certificates, encased postage, and very useful information for beginners about the "Care and Preservation of Paper Money." Lastly, there is an excellent bibliography and an index—what other reference catalog like this has an INDEX?

For those collectible issues, which deserve them, current price guides are included. Collectors of today seem to demand that ANY book they purchase contain pricing for everything listed. But honestly, if current prices are that critical to you, consider subscribing to the Green Sheet. Prices aren't really the purpose of this book.

The real beauty of the book is that ALL of the information you need to

know about U.S. Government paper currency issues is contained in ONE easy-to-use, concise, and PORTABLE volume. Unless you personally enjoy lugging several books around with you on the floor of a show, this book should satisfy the requirement of a SOLID reference source which fits easily into a briefcase or under your arm.

Another feature that I really like is that the notes are arranged by denomination, not type. All of the One Dollar notes, from the Legal Tender issues of 1862 through the latest Federal Reserve Notes, are grouped together chronologically. I don't have to "jump around" from section to section looking for Legal Tenders, Silver Certificates, Treasury Notes, Federal Reserve Bank Notes—I just have to look through the One dollar Notes! The numbering system also matches this arrangement—sequentially by denomination.

If any of you reading this are just beginning to enjoy this wonderful hobby, the first 50 pages of this book would almost be worth the price of the entire volume. Pages 1-32 provide an excellent history of U.S. paper money, including private issues. A bonus is several color photographs of the process used by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing to produce current notes. Pages 33-50 take you through the basic types of U.S. paper money—WHAT they were, and WHY they were issued. Also included in this section is a good explanation of the systems used for numbering on U.S. paper currency from 1861 to the present—sheet layout, consecutive numbering, block numbering, and replacement notes.

I truly could go on and on why I consider this book so worthwhile. But I prefer to pass on just a couple of thoughts which should sum it up properly, and hopefully entice you to thumb through a copy. There are several publications in print which also catalog U.S. Government paper currency issues. Each of these other books credit an author or "coauthor,"

with others listed as "editor" or "associate editor"; sections in these books are "compiled by" or "contributed by" yet other persons. Go figure.

This IS Gene Hessler's book. I was privy to witness to a small degree some of his efforts, and be told about his exploits discovering information, as he updated the Fourth Edition—which, until this one was published, was the BEST reference book available. He had some help, yes, but I know personally that Gene performed ALL of the major research, and took many photographs, which resulted in this new edition. How else could he have discovered, documented and illustrated no less than SIX issues which had never before appeared in a numismatic publication? He tracked them down in the files of the Bureau of the Public Debt! I am not aware of any other authors or editors or compilers who have ever MENTIONED this source of information, much less credit it as being a source of material for their publications.

Gene has had a lifelong interest in the artists and engravers who created the notes that are catalogued in this volume. Throughout the book, he includes valuable information for the reader which goes beyond a catalog number and price guide—the actual titles of vignettes used, and the names of the people who designed, engraved and composed the notes.

I know personally that the several editions of *The Comprehensive Catalog of U.S. Paper Money* have been a labor of love for the author. His burning desire to learn AND SHARE everything he possibly can about the subject matter stokes the fire that results in the information being published in such a quality fashion. All of us who share his love, but don't have the wherewithal to duplicate his efforts, should certainly take advantage of them.

Reprinted from *Paper Money*, Vol. XXXII, No. 2, with Permission.



# Argentina

## The "Inflation Series"—Old Habit: New Money

by William R. Harmon I.B.N.S. #5961

Since the middle of this century, one of the Argentina's most persistent problems has been chronic inflation. Several times inflation has been pronounced dead only to self-resurrect. In 1991 the government introduced a drastic plan to destroy inflation, and from March to December a greater stability was indeed visible in that the Argentine currency did not fall against the U.S. dollar throughout the last ten months of that year. This year, however, the Argentine government is introducing yet another change in the national monetary unit, which comes as no surprise to an Argentine populace which has long since become accustomed to such news.

One of the problems caused by inflation is the multiplication of large numbers which have to be entered into computers, ledgers, calculators, etc. Although the problem may seem trivial (and perhaps, compared to the other effects of inflation, it is), it still causes many administrative problems and is a constant source of irritation. For that reason, and also because of the hoped-for positive psychological effect, whenever it begins to appear that inflation is waning, the government tends to decree a change in the monetary unit, as if along with inflation all

memory of the destroyed monetary unit will be interred.

From 1942 to 1969 the Argentine currency was the *peso moneda nacional* (peso national currency).<sup>1</sup> After several years of inflation it was decided that year to liquidate the rapidly weakening "national currency peso" and the government did so by doing away with the last two zeroes (i.e., dividing by 100), thus launching a new peso, which was known as "Peso Ley 18.188" after Law Number 18.188 which made it official. From 1969 to 1976 all bank notes were so designated, although from 1976 to 1983 the line "Decreto Ley 18.188" was dropped for no discernible reason.

The old "moneda nacional" bank notes still circulated for a long while, and the Argentines resisted the new term for their money (possibly because the law was a decree of the generally unpopular military government of General Onganía). As a result, for a time documents referred to the new money; but people still spoke and thought in terms of the old money, and constantly had to calculate the differences in exchanging new for old coins and bank notes.

Inflation again started rearing its ugly head in 1975, a year which saw the birth of a new word "Rodrigazo"

(approximately "Rodrigo's blow", named for the then Minister of Finance). In June of 1983 a new military government, after several years of lessening inflation, followed the custom by instituting a new currency. The new unit was still to be called the peso, but to distinguish it from previous pesos the law named it the peso Argentino, "Argentine peso." The equivalency was: 1 Argentine peso = 10,000 Law 18.188 new pesos; therefore 1 Argentine peso = 1,000,000 old pesos moneda nacional. But even *then* most people in referring to pesos spoke in terms of the pre-1970 pesos.

The Argentine peso lasted barely two years. On June 15, 1985 the democratically elected government of Alfonsín launched a new stabilization plan, one leg of which was...surprise!—a new currency. The new unit was not to be a peso, but an austral, which was worth 1000 Argentine pesos, therefore 10,000,000 Law 18.188 new pesos, or 1,000,000,000 pesos moneda nacional.

For some reason, this time the Argentine populace responded well to the governmental decree, and rapidly adapted their speech to the new units. Why? There is a choice of several equally possible reasons: the plan was launched by a democratic



Face of 100 pesos, P277, 1960



Face of 100 pesos, P302, 1976-1978





Face of 50 pesos Argentinos, P315, 1983-1985

government; the new money had a new and truly different name, which prevents confusion; the calculation of equivalents was easier, because the thousands separator showed the required division; the value of the Austral was pegged at approximately one U.S. dollar (and many contracts were made in U.S. dollars); and possibly because they were at long last just plain tired of the confusion. However, the Alfonsín government ended in a period of severe inflation in 1989. After four years the austral, which had in the beginning been pegged at about 1 U.S. dollar, had fallen to about one fifth of a U.S. cent.

A new government led by President Menem did not get off to a good start on inflation, and by

February of 1991 the U.S. dollar represented the somehow symbolic, perhaps even magical, number of 10,000 australs.

At that time the Argentine Congress approved a law proposed by Minister of Finance Cavallo which obliged the central bank to respect the "convertibility" of the austral relative to the U.S. dollar at a fixed exchange rate of 10,000 australs to the U.S. dollar. That meant that the central bank always had to have reserves adequate to buy all circulating australs, selling dollars at that exchange rate as necessary. That, of course, rendered impossible the printing of national currency without a reserve of dollars to support it. One could therefore say (although technically not quite properly) that

Argentina no longer has its own money; that the Argentine currency is actually the U.S. dollar represented by pieces of paper called australs. If the government doesn't spend any more money than it takes in, the "convertibility" is mathematically guaranteed.

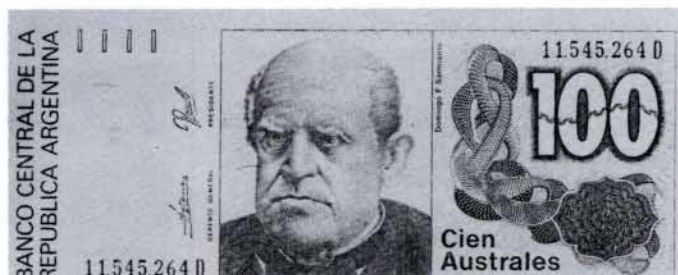
The old habit surfaced again the first of January, 1992. The new currency is now to be called simply the "peso" without any added qualifying words, and the equivalency therefore becomes 1 peso = 10,000 australs.

It can be seen that from 1970 to 1992 the index reached 10,000,000,000,000; that is 10,000,000,000,000 1970 pesos are equal to one 1992 peso. That places Argentine third in the "inflation series" after the 1946 inflation currency of Hungary, in which the inflation index reached 1,000,000,000,000,000,000 pengő, and 1923 Germany in which the index reached 100,000,000,000,000 marks. Bolivia, Brazil, Greece, Poland and Romania are other strong contenders in the "inflation series"—a series with no winners, only losers.

<sup>1</sup> For a thorough treatment of pre-1942 Argentine currency see Ubaldo M. Guevara, *Papel Moneda de Republica Argentina 1890/1980*.



Face of 500,000 pesos, P309, 1980-83



Face of 100 australes, P327, 1985



# Alonzo Foringer, Bank Note Artist

by Gene Hessler, I.B.N.S. #1549

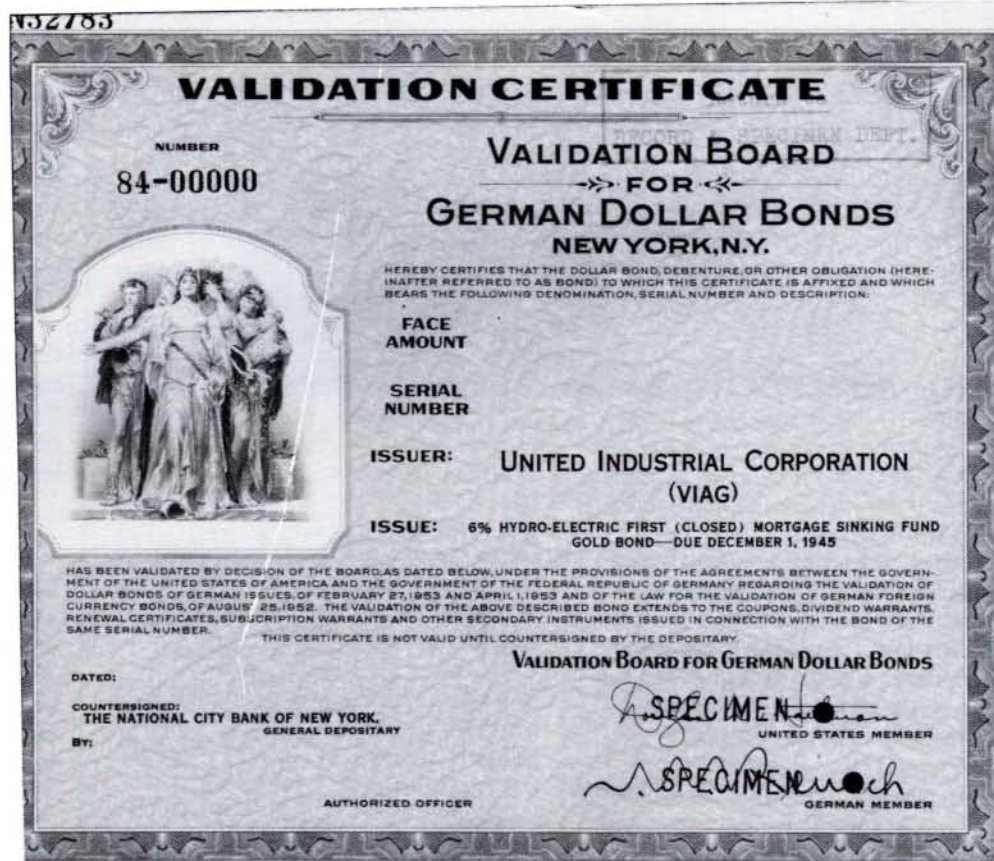
For those who share my interest in the art work on paper money and security documents, I thought you might like to know who created the art work and who engraved the figures on the Validation Certificates of the Konversionskasse that were discussed and illustrated in Vol. 31, No. 4, of the *I.B.N.S. Journal* (1992).

Alonzo Foringer, the artist, and Robert Savage, the engraver, are two bank note artists with legendary reputations. Both were engaged by American Bank Note Co. Robert Savage and his work were discussed by this writer in the *I.B.N.S. Journal* Nos. 3 & 4, 1988. The list of his recorded work, many sketched and painted from life by Alonzo Foringer, has now grown to four pages. These will be included in a cyclopedia of engravers and their work that I hope will be completed and published by the end of 1993.

Alonzo Foringer, the quintessential bank note artist, was born in Kaylor, Armstrong County, Pennsylvania in 1898. Among his teachers was Edwin H. Blashfield, the muralist who created the art work for the United States 1896, \$2 silver certificate, one of the three notes that comprised the popular educational series.

Like Blashfield, Foringer also worked as a muralist. However, it was his World War I poster, *The Greatest Mother in the World*, that brought him international recognition. This 27 x 36-inch poster is said to have generated \$150,000,000 for the Red Cross in 1918.

The same figures that appear on the Konversionskasse certificates can be found on a 36 x 58-inch painting for a French 100 franc essai; the



Validation Certificate for German Dollar Bonds



Canadian Bank of Commerce, \$20,  
"Neptune, Sea Nymphs, Mercury and Female"



painting is dated 1916. This was lot 10 in the Christie's sale of the American Bank Note Company Archives, November 28, 1990.

Most of Alonzo Foringer's work was used on bonds and stock certificates. Nevertheless, his unique creations did appear on the bank notes of at least eleven countries. A list follows:

#### Canada

- Agriculture*, \$1 (back), P38 & P39.
- Female and Globe*, \$1-\$20, PS947-951.
- Industry, Vulcan, Herculean Men* (with symbols of science and industry), \$50, PS698.
- Juno and Bull, Ceres and Goats*, \$10, PS966 & PS971.
- Mercury, Agriculture & Invention*, \$5, PS965 & PS970.
- Mercury, Goddesses (3), Pioneer and Explorer*, \$100, PS969.
- Neptune, Sea Nymphs, Mercury and Female*, \$20, PS967 & PS972.

#### Czechoslovakia

- Allegory*, 5,000 korun (back), P16.
- Woman with Globe*, 1,000 korun, P13 & P25.

#### Dominican Republic

- Coffee Industry*, 100 pesos, P23 & P32.

#### Ecuador

- Telecommunications*, 1,000 sucres, P97.

#### France

- France* (female standing on winged wheel), 100 franc essai, lots 932-934, Christie's sale November 29, 1990.

#### German Federal Republic

- Female Allegory*, 50 marks, P7.

#### Honduras

- Protection*, 2 lempiras, PS122.

#### Martinique

- Agriculture*, 100 francs, P19.
- Seated Figures*, 1,000 francs, P21.

#### Nicaragua

- Fruit* (kneeling woman), 100 cordobas, P56 & P82.

#### U.S.S.R.

- Protection*, 200 rubles, PS882.

#### Yugoslavia

- Progress*, 10 dinara, P21.

Alonzo Foringer died in Saddle River, New Jersey on December 8, 1948. His mural work can be seen in a few American public buildings and one church, the Church of the Savior in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Fortunately, we can own and appreciate our own personal examples of Alonzo Foringer's work.

## 1993 Auction Prices Realized



The auction business for U.S. coins held steady in 1992, according to figures totaled from the newly released 1993 *Auction Prices Realized*.

Complete winning bids from the top 48 auctions of U.S. coins in 1992 are compiled in this comprehensive and handy reference.

The 478-page, soft-cover book (5 1/4 inches by 8 1/4 inches) lists more than 65,000 lots sold in 1992 by major auction companies.

The companies sold \$57.58 million worth of U.S. coins in 1992, compared to \$58.43 million in 1991.

Wilhite and Tom Michael, market analyst for Coin Market, compiled the listings in 1993 *Auction Prices Realized*.

The book begins by listing each sale covered and its dates.

Each individual result is categorized by denomination and type for easy reference — from Colonial coins to modern gold commemoratives, patterns, and territorial and private gold pieces. Each listing shows the company that sold the coin, the month in which it was sold, the coin's grade, and the price it commanded.

"The current and real market value of a coin is most clearly established by what informed buyers will pay for it at auction," Wilhite said. "Collectors, investors and dealers spend hours searching auction catalogs to help determine value based on historical price trends and to achieve a sense of rarity for a coin."

"*Auction Prices Realized* is designed to make that vital information available to everyone quickly and effortlessly."

1993 *Auction Prices Realized* can be purchased from numismatic book dealers or directly from the publisher, Krause Publications, 700 E. State Street, Iola, WI 54990-0001, for \$60 plus \$2.50 shipping for each book ordered. Wisconsin residents must add 5 1/2 -percent sales tax. MasterCard and VISA customers can call toll free (800) 258-0929.



Yugoslavia, *Progress*, 10 Dinara, P21



# The Influence of King Abdullah ibn Hussein al-Hashemi on the Paper Money of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan

by Jack H. Fisher, I.B.N.S. #421

Collectors of the notes issued by the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan will see that the first notes issued carry the portrait of a dignified man with a beard and a covered head. The question raised in my mind upon obtaining the first such note for my personal collection circa 1964 was who is the man on the note?

Subsequently I learned that the man was King Abdullah ibn Hussein al-Hashemi (sometimes spelled King Abdallah), King of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan at the time of issue of the 1949 notes.

He was born in 1882 in Mecca as the second son of Sherif Hussein of Mecca, a descendant of the Prophet Muhammad's Hashemite clan of the Quarish tribe. When he was born, Mecca was the capital of the Turkish area of Hejaz. His father was Sherif Hussein ibn Ali ("ibn" means "son of"). The title of "Sherif" and "Emir" mean "being descended from the Prophet Muhammad through Fatima who was the daughter of the Prophet Muhammad." Abdullah was born into a very important family.

Education was a high priority for his father, so when Abdullah was in his early teens, he and his brother were sent to Constantinople to receive a more advanced education than was available in Mecca. His father reasoned that for his sons to be qualified to hold positions of responsibility and importance, education had to be lifelong to be up-to-date with the times and events. Some researchers, such as Andrew Vusson, have advanced the theory that Abdullah and his brother were really in Constantinople for the dual purpose of receiving their education and as hostages to keep the Hashemite Clan of the Quarish

tribe in line to accept the rule of the Sultan. Abdullah was a good student as well as learning the politics of the time and area necessary to obtain positions of importance and trust. He was attracted to circles and groups of educated Arabs, actively participating in Arab literary groups in Istanbul. This brought him into active and relatively constant contact with the social as well as with some of the secret and underground Arab nationalist groups. He agreed with their ideas and general goals to the point that he joined and participated.

It was after the revolution of the Young Turks that he returned to Mecca where Hussein, his father, was Emir. Abdullah assisted his father in Mecca.

There were reports at that time that he became very active in the political fabric of Mecca. He represented Mecca in the Turkish Parliament before he was thirty years of age, and he was vice president of the Chamber of Deputies. He was recognized as a leader of some importance with his general knowledge and political skills.

When Abdullah was planning to return to Mecca in 1914, he decided to go to Cairo first. It was his intention to contact the British authorities in Cairo to obtain guaranteed aid in the event there would be an Arab revolt against the Ottoman Empire. It has been said that he discussed this with Lord Kitchener, and that Lord Kitchener informed Abdullah that should Turkey join Germany in the war against England, England would provide assistance to an Arab revolt against Turkey. His father, Hussein,

was claimed to have been accepted by Lord Kitchener as the principal voice of the Arabs, with Abdullah being the Foreign Minister acting for his father.

Then Turkey entered the war against England as an ally of Germany. Lord Kitchener is then claimed to have informed Abdullah that England would give the Arabs assistance against "foreign powers." England would not "intervene" in Arab affairs provided the Arabs would revolt against the Ottoman Empire. Some even claim that Lord Kitchener implied that if the Arab revolt were successful, the caliphate could be given to a descendent of the Prophet Muhammad.

The revolt of the Arabs was led by Abdullah, his brother Faisal and several others. The sword of the commander of the Turkish forces at Taif was given to Abdullah after Taif was captured. This proved to be the foundation victory for the forces of Abdullah to defeat the Turkish forces at Mecca.

After the revolt was won, Hejaz was recognized as being a sovereign state. Hussein, father of Abdullah, received an invitation to attend the Paris Peace Conference and to have Hejaz become a member of The League of Nations. It was while their claims were being asserted in Paris and England that conflict seemed to be a certainty between Hussein and Ibn Saud.

Abdullah organized a force to attack the oasis of Khuma because the British had stated to Hussein that he had a right to the area.

Faisal, brother of Abdullah, was in command of Iraqi officers in the Syrian Army during the war. These officers proclaimed Faisal King of



Syria and Abdullah King of Iraq. The League of Nations mandated Syria to France, and France did not recognize Faisal as king.

Trans Jordan and Palestine were at one time considered a part of Syria, and this area was mandated to the British. This created distinct mandated divisions in the area.

Good source books concerning this period and subject matter are *Arabia* by H. St. John Pilby, *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* by T.E. Lawrence, *Iraq* by Philip Ireland and articles available in most libraries.

It was claimed that Lawrence had obtained the approval of Abdullah that Faisal be granted the Kingdom of Iraq instead of Syria. Sometime later Abdullah stated that Lawrence had promised Abdullah a kingdom in Syria. This created discord. Abdullah announced that he was gathering forces to push the French out of Syria. Winston Churchill, British Secretary for the Colonies, had many conferences with him to attempt to change his decision to attack the French in Syria.

Churchill negotiated with Abdullah to accept being the Emir of Trans Jordan, plus a handsome annual guaranteed sum of money. This resulted in the establishment of the province of Trans Jordan which became an independent state sometime in the spring of 1923. The reports of King Abdullah as a ruler are in quite substantial conflict. Some say that he was a well-liked, efficient and intelligent administra-

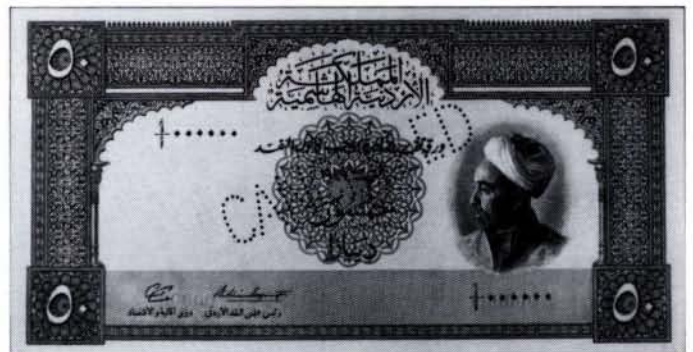
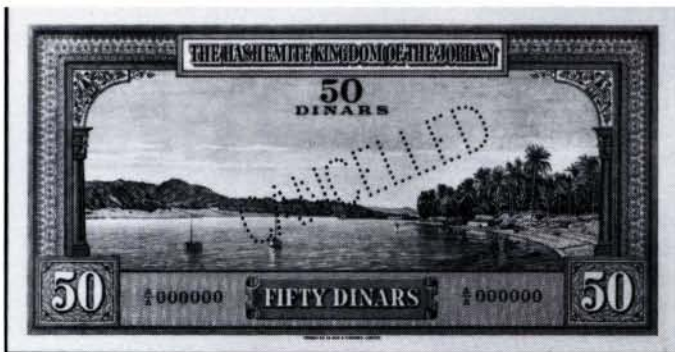


One-hundred-pounds Palestine Currency Board note dated 1929 that circulated side-by-side in Jordan with the first issue Jordan notes dated 1949. This note is rare; only four are known of all dates, and only six are reported as not being redeemed, so that only two other regular issue notes are possible.

tor, and others claim just the opposite. There appears to be almost unanimous agreement that Abdullah depended heavily on the British, and the British had substantial influence over him and his administration of Trans Jordan. It is even reported that in 1946 the United Nations thought it necessary to investigate the amount of control that the British had over Trans Jordan.

It was during the British Mandate, from 1927 until the termination of the Mandate, that the principal paper money and coins used in Trans Jordan were issued by the British Palestine Currency Board. These consisted of coins and

currency with three languages on them—English, Arabic and Hebrew. This currency system was based on British sterling with Palestine Currency Board notes being issued and used in denominations of 500 mils, one pound, five pounds, ten pounds, fifty pounds and one hundred pounds. In this system, 1,000 mils is equal to £1. The coins were issued with denominations of one, two, five, ten, twenty, fifty and one hundred mils. Some denominations and issues of these notes range from being scarce to rare. There are only four regular issue one hundred-pound notes known to exist, and the note in my personal collection, 1929 serial number A001020,



Two fifty-dinars 1949 Jordan notes with one showing the face of the note with the portrait of King Abdullah and the second showing the back of the second note with a water scene. Both have serial numbers with all zeros, and one is perforation canceled on the front and the other on the back with the word "CANCELED." Only one regular issue 1949 fifty-dinars note has not been redeemed according to the Central Bank of Jordan, and it is reported to be in the museum collection of that bank. Even canceled 1949 canceled or specimen notes as used to illustrate this article are not easy to obtain.



illustrates this article. These were the notes used immediately before the issues of the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan notes in 1949 with the portrait of King Abdullah in denominations of 500 fils, one dinar, five dinars, ten dinars and fifty dinars. The Palestine Currency Board notes and the 1949 first issue of Jordan notes circulated side by side in Jordan after the termination of the British Mandate.

Raids by tribes into Trans Jordan, plus some internal problems, resulted in a joint decision by the British and King Abdullah to form a military force named the Arab Legion. The core was composed of combat soldiers who followed King Abdullah for years. The British granted a subsidy of two million English pounds for the Arab Legion, plus providing English officers to train and command. This became the best trained military force in the Arab world, providing King Abdullah with special military importance in the area after World War II.

King Abdullah was also a pretender to the caliphate. When his father, Hussein, declared himself to be "Caliph and King of the Arab countries" in 1924, his title was not accepted by certain groups within the Arab world. Ibn Saud sent his forces into the Kingdom of Hejaz under claim that he was protecting the "true faith." Hussein was exiled and died in Cyprus. After Abdullah's brother Faisal died, Abdullah became the "pretender to the Caliphate." This entire area has

been and still is complex in so many respects, of which religion is only one facet.

The British had great faith in King Abdullah as the most loyal ally of the British among the Arab leaders of the Middle East during World War II. Abdullah even called upon the whole Moslem world to oppose the Axis powers during World War II.

On May 28, 1946 Trans Jordan became a kingdom with new treaties signed with the British allowing the British substantial commercial rights, transportation and communication facilities, plus a mutual defense agreement. King Abdullah also agreed to retain Major Glubb as commander of the Arab Legion along with a large number of other British officers. The British regarded Trans Jordan as the key country in the Middle East.

King Abdullah made some Arab enemies when he tried to be a moderate with the British in Palestine in guaranteeing Jewish rights for up to about one third of the total population. He also offered to add Palestine to Trans Jordan to be under his rule and protection. An alternative was to divide Palestine into "Jewish cantons to comprise a Jewish National Home and Arab cantons to be joined to Arab Trans Jordan."

His close relationship with Iraq made him believe that it might be most receptive to his ideas and programs.

The partition of the land ordered by the United Nations General

Assembly caused King Abdullah to change his mind about the area. He was appointed by the Arab League to head the military forces of Arabs to enter the area designated as Palestine. It was the goal of King Abdullah and his Arab allies to stop the partition of Palestine when the British Mandate ended May 15, 1948.

Armies of Egypt entered the newly established State of Israel from the south and the Arab armies commenced all-out war. Abdullah was regarded by most of the world as the Commander in Chief of all Arab military forces in Palestine fighting Israel. His forces included the Arab Legion, Arab Liberation Army, Iraqi Army and others.

It is of particular interest that Israel was recognized by the United States and the Soviet Union, the two major powers, even though both had strong desires and involvements in the Arab world. The British as of May 1948 had not yet recognized Israel as a state, so they did not regard the "Arabs as aggressors." They stood by their treaty with the Arabs and assisted the Arab Legion and the Arabs.

By the fall of 1948 the United Nations agreed that the State of Israel be admitted as a member of the UN and also considered Trans Jordan for membership. There were media reports at the time that King Abdullah was more inclined to conclude an agreement with Israel provided that the portion of Palestine land designated as Arab be added and annexed to Jordan under his control and rule. The Mufti of



Ten-dinars Jordan note (Pick 8) being the first issue with the portrait of King Hussein after he became king at age 17 and the second ten-dinars specimen note with the more mature King Hussein, issued under the Law of 1959 (Pick 12).



Jerusalem and other Arab leaders were opposed to this. The Mufti and Abdullah were in different camps of thought for some time, and these proposals of Abdullah just widened the gap.

Media reports in November, 1948, were that King Abdullah was "pushing for real peace between Jews and Arabs." He proposed that Jews and Arabs should be more reasonable with each other in working out a "real peace." In December 1948 representatives of the Arab Legion, mayors of most of the Palestine communities still in control of the Arabs, and the Palestine Supreme Moslem Council met in Jericho and declared King Abdullah "King of all Palestine." Some of the other Arab states vowed their opposition. This declaration was approved by the Trans Jordan Parliament and Cabinet. King Abdullah did not immediately ratify this declaration.

In December 1948 officers of the Israeli Army and the Arab Legion were in the process of drawing up truce terms for the City of Jerusalem. Britain had honored King Abdullah up to this time as a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire and of the Grand Cross of St. Michael and St. George, as well as making him a Comodoro in the Royal Air Force.

Some of the Arab leaders were upset with King Abdullah for agreeing to the plan proposed by the Commander of the Arab Legion to take over the areas set forth as the Arab State under the 1947 Partition Resolution, which had the alleged practical result of avoiding attacking Israel in the area designated for the Jewish State. The Arab Legion fought for and controlled most of the combat in Jerusalem and the area around it; this was an area not designated by the United Nations to either the Jewish State or to the Arab State.

Secret negotiations were said to be direct between King Abdullah and Israel officials to conclude the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement in April 1949. Negotiations continued between Israel and King Abdullah until it was claimed in January 1950 that a non-aggression

agreement had in fact been negotiated. The final draft of the agreement was prepared to be signed by King Abdullah and the Israeli officials. Arab leaders from the various states were violently opposed to such agreement; they threatened Trans Jordan with being thrown out of the Arab League. King Abdullah ceased his negotiations with Israeli officials.

The paper money issued by the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan, with the portrait of King Abdullah, assumes greater character and personality for the collector of such notes after learning more about King Abdullah and his involvement in the affairs of the Middle East during varied critical and crucial periods of history. Such study provides a basis for better understanding the Middle East of yesterday and today, with its complexities, politics, religions and different peoples with diverse agendas.

Some personal details pertaining to King Abdullah are of interest. He was described circa 1948 by one newspaper as being "short and somewhat stout, graying beard...jovial...his sense of humor finds an outlet in sharp wit and practical jokes." It was also noted that he had three wives and that the "Emirs Talal and Naif are two of his children." In addition to having "one of the finest stables of Arabian horses in the world that he found relaxation in chess, reading poetry, writing poetry and music." He was also the author of an often quoted book titled *Who am I?*, which is a literary history of the Arabs. King Abdullah was quoted in a media interview as saying "There is no higher art than music." He was a multi-faceted individual.

King Abdullah was assassinated in the Al-Aksa Mosque in Jerusalem on July 20, 1951 by a Palestinian follower of the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. Perhaps if he had lived he would have been able to help resolve the disputes, dissension and problems of the Middle East to allow the peoples in the region to live in peace, harmony and mutual assistance.

Collectors of the paper money of Jordan have the 500-fils, one-dinar,

five-dinars, ten-dinars and fifty-dinars notes to pursue in the 1949 issue with the portrait of King Abdullah. The fifty-dinars note was sought by me for many years after I acquired the other denominations, and I could never verify that such a regular issue fifty-dinars note existed in any private collection. Sources in both official and unofficial quarters in Jordan informed me that the only regular issue fifty dinars of 1949 that had not been redeemed is in the Museum of the Central Bank of Jordan in Amman. Any reader with information concerning the existence of any other surviving regular issue note is requested to provide such information to me at the address at the end of this article.

Because of the difficulty in obtaining any regular issue 1949 fifty-dinars note, I sought this note in "canceled" or "specimen." I located two beautiful 1949 fifty-dinars notes in Gem Uncirculated condition with serial numbers all zeroes with one such note having a perforated "CANCELED" on the front and the other having the perforated "CANCELED" on the back. These two notes are used to illustrate this article.

After the assassination of King Abdullah, he was succeeded by his son, Talal. King Talal was deposed in 1952 due to his mental illness. The son of King Talal, Hussein ibn Talal, succeeded his father as King of Jordan. King Hussein was only seventeen. There was no paper money issued with the portrait of King Talal.

The next paper money issued by the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan had the portrait of King Hussein. These young King Hussein notes consist of 500 fils, one dinar, five dinars and ten dinars (Pick A6, 6, 7 and 8). Illustrative of this series with the young King Hussein is the ten-dinars specimen note. The next issue of Jordan notes, under the Law of 1959, were Central Bank of Jordan 500 fils, one dinar, five dinars and ten dinars (Pick 9, 10, 11 and 12). These notes portray a more mature King Hussein. Subsequent notes issued by Jordan will be the subject of a later article along with bio-



graphical information pertaining to King Hussein.

Collecting the notes of Jordan, along with reading and researching the leaders and the country, can provide the collector with fascinating and interesting information to better comprehend the Middle East of today and the great importance of it to the rest of the world.

There are several sources for background information on Jordan. The *New Encyclopaedia Britannica* states, "The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Arab state of Southwest Asia, covering an area of 34,443 square miles east of the Jordan River...Extending about 285 miles from north to south and about 220 miles from east to west. Jordan is bordered on the north by Syria, on the northeast by Iraq, on the southeast and south by Saudi Arabia, and on the west by Israel." The population of Jordan is difficult to ascertain, but estimates are that it is slightly under three million.

A collector seeking a new challenge should consider the notes of Jordan. Individuals with information concerning unusual Jordan notes and or/ comments pertaining to this article are requested to direct such communications to Jack H. Fisher, 3123 Bronson Boulevard, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008. Information obtained will be shared with the numismatic-syngraphic community.

#### ADDENDUM:

The only regular issue 1949 Jordan 50-dinars note that had not been redeemed was reported by the Central Bank of Jordan as being in the museum collection of that bank. Armen Youssefi obtained a photocopy of the 1949 50-dinars note on display in that museum. He provided me with a copy, and this note is a "SPECIMEN" note, punch canceled with the word "CANCELED" with an imprint on the front of the "SPECIMEN DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. CANCELED" and on the bottom margin "SPECIMEN NO. 42." It is obviously not a regular issue note that is on display.

This leads to speculation that the Central Bank of Jordan does not have the "only claimed surviving 1949 50 dinars" on display and has it locked away in safe keeping; that the regular issue 1949 50-dinars note might no longer be in the museum collection and other possibilities. Information pertaining to this note is being pursued by me as a major Jordan note mystery.

The two 1949 50-dinars specimen notes in my collection that illustrate this article do not have the "SPECIMEN DE LA RUE CO. LTD. CANCELED" and the "SPECIMEN NO. ...." printed any place on them. Any individuals with information about the above currently unanswered matters are requested to communicate such information to Jack H. Fisher at the address set forth above.

*President's Message — continued from page 1*

These new issues are a fertile field for the topical collector, too. Animals of all kinds, birds, rabbits, moose and bears, just to name a few, grace the backs of notes in Lithuania's talon series and in the 1992 kopek/ruble series of White Russia. Yes, these are exciting times.

To those among you who are thematic, or topical, collectors, I suggest that you read Dr. Richard Underwood's excellent article "Thematic Collecting" in the last issue of your *Journal*. Reading it made me realize once again that there is something very lacking in our hobby, namely a catalog, perhaps index would be a more appropriate term, that cross-references topical subjects to Pick numbers. Underwood's article suggests an excellent framework which could be the basis for such a cross-referencing system, and with today's sophisticated and easy-to-use data processing software, such an index should not be difficult to create. The problem, of course, is data accumulation, consolidation and entry. Production of such a reference will fill a significant void in, and would be a major contribution to, our hobby...in other words, something very much worthy of the attention of I.B.N.S. Do we have any volunteers out there who would like to tackle such an undertaking? If so, contact me or our first vice-president, Lance Campbell. I believe this could be something **really** worthwhile.

While all the articles in the last *Journal* were truly excellent, another one really caught my eye: "The Convention Under the Arch" by *Journal* editor Steve Feller's then 10-year-old daughter, Rachel. I especially liked one line: "I realized how much joy most people were getting out of this convention. It wasn't so much the coins and paper money as it was the friends that everyone was seeing, those who live far away aren't able to meet with their friends as often as next door neighbors, so when they see each other it's not just a "Hello" sort of business." Rachel hit the nail on the head! It is just this feeling that she so eloquently described that makes our I.B.N.S. functions so treasurable, and enjoyable, even if afterwards your long-sought-after note still has managed to elude you. With that thought, I'll close with a "Hope to see you in Maastricht...and in Memphis." God bless!

Clyde Reedy  
President

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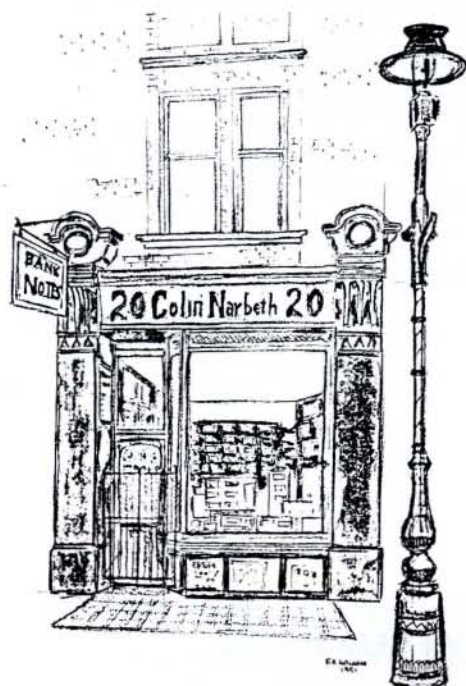
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